13
サーティーンクラブ
club
1
シヒラ竜也
Shihira Tatsuya
ストーリー協力 神浦

This story is purely a work of fiction.
It has no relations to real people, organizations, or events.

13 club

IF YOU COULD FIND OUT A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT THE FUTURE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
GET RICH OFF OF THE STOCK MARKET? USE THE MEDIA TO BECOME FAMOUS AS A PROPHET? OR...
HERE, I SHALL INTRODUCE TO YOU A FEW SUCH CURIOUS STORIES
WHO AM I? I AM THE PRESIDENT HERE... A COLLECTOR OF THESE "CURIOUS STORIES"
WELL THEN, LET US BEGIN WITH THE FIRST STORY
Enter

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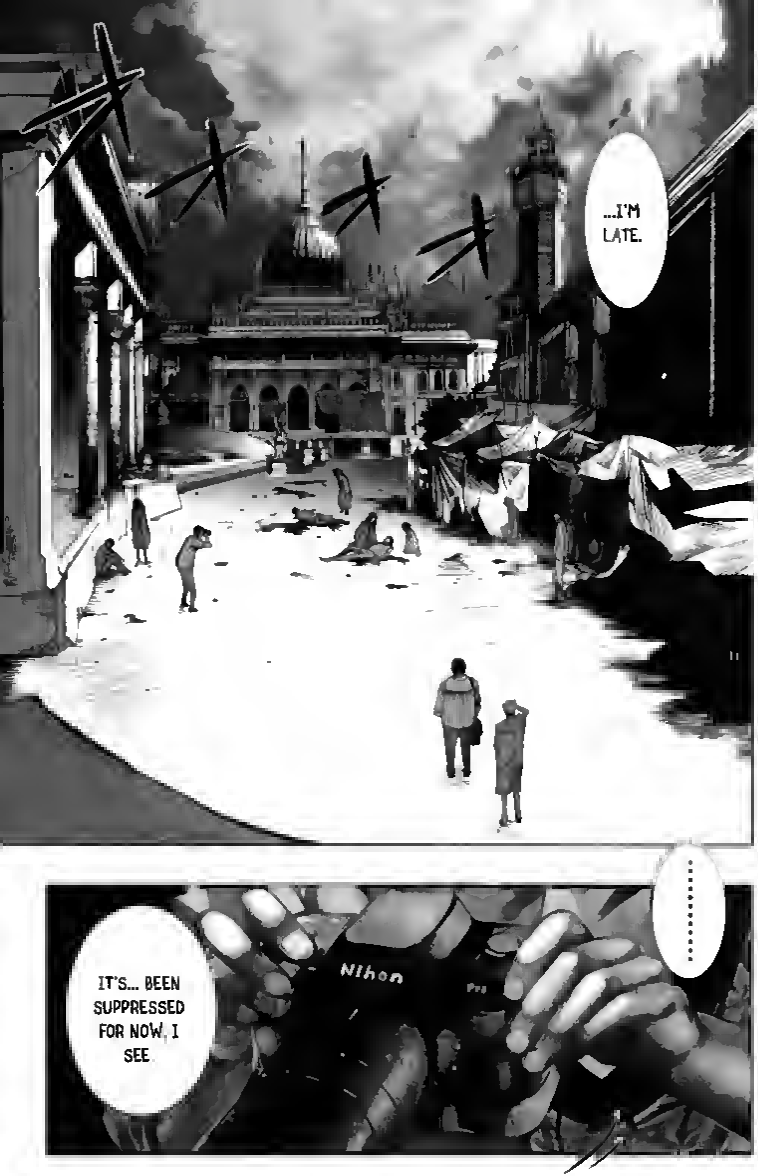
Story 1: Stigmata

GIVE VOTING RIGHTS TO THE CITIZENS!!
YEAH!
WE OPPOSE DICTATORSHIP!!
AH!
BANG
A COUNTRY IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA
SEPTEMBER 13TH 3:25PM IN FRONT OF THE PEOPLE'S MEMORIAL PLAZA

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GYAAAAA
WAAAAAAH
SIR, THIS WAY!!
HURRY!!
GEH!
HAH!
CEASE FIRE!!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ガシャッ
...
SHIT!
FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER. MIHAMA TAKESHI


...I'M LATE.
.....
Nihon
IT'S... BEEN SUPPRESSED FOR NOW, I SEE

...SORRY ABOUT THAT, SIR.
APPARENTLY ARMED TROOPS WERE SENT TO SUPPRESS THE FREEDOM DEMONSTRATION.
BY THE TIME WE GOT THE INFO, THE VIOLENCE HAD ALREADY STARTED.
.....
SFX: SNAP!
IDIOT! DON'T TAKE PHOTOS!!
!

I'LL TRY TO PERSUADE HER.
IT SEEMS SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE VICTIM. SHE DOESN'T LIKE THE CAMERA, I GUESS.
GO AWAY!
DON'T TAKE PHOTOS OF MY FATHER!
WHAT'S UP WITH HER?
THANKS
...A CELL-PHONE?
DID A DEMONS-TRATOR DROP IT...?
WHY IS IT HERE...?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, MIHAMA!?
SEPTEMBER 13TH, 11:11PM.
ROINCIER HOTEL IN A CERTAIN COUNTRY

WHAT DO YOU THINK I SENT YOU OVER THERE FOR!?

ALRIGHT, I'M REALLY COUNTING ON YOU FOR NEXT TIME!
UNDER-STOOD

..SIGH

GET OVER THERE 20... NO, 30 MINUTES EARLIER FROM NOW AND ON!!
AND GET RID OF THAT USELESS GUIDE!!
ISN'T YOUR JOB TO CAPTURE THE CRUCIAL MOMENTS OF THE SCENE?!

SFX: Vibrate x3

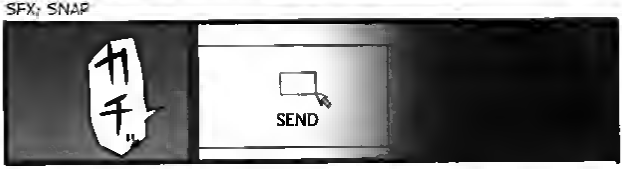
SEPTEMBER 14TH
4:43PM
YAGRATT
EASTERN VILLA
STREET
YAGRATT EASTERN VILLA STREET?
COULD THIS BE A MEMO FOR THE LOCATION OF THE NEXT DEMONSTRATION?
SEPTEMBER 14TH 4:31PM
YAGRATT EASTERN VILLA STREET

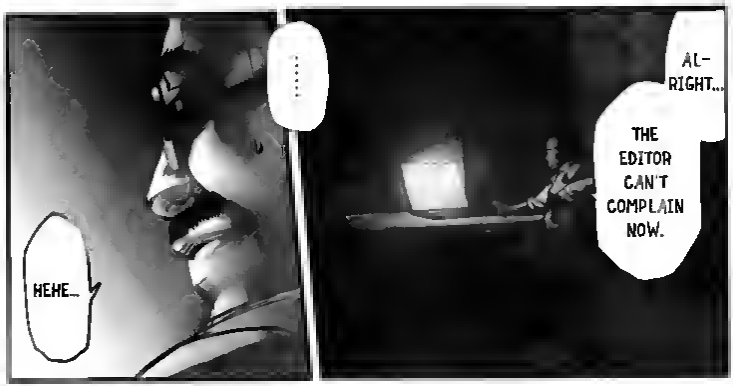
ザワ
ザワ
SIGH.
JUST AS I THOUGHT, THEY'VE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF ARMED FORCES
ブオオオ...
SOLDIERS... EVEN ARMED TRUCKS ARE PATROLLING THE AREA RIGHT NOW
AT THIS RATE, EVEN IF THERE IS A DEMONS-TRATION...
..IT WILL BE HERE TODAY, I GUESS
HE SHOULD BE AROUND HERE...
I HAVE TO RETURN THIS CELLPHONE TO THE OWNER WHEN I MAKE CONTACT WITH THE SENDER OF THE MESSAGE
ダ
WOAH!!

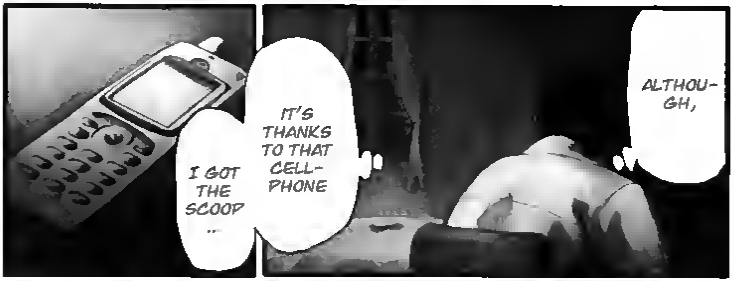
O...OI, THAT'S DANGERO —
GIVE US FREE-DOM!!

U...
UWAAH!
THEY ARE SUICIDE BOMB-ERS!!

SFX: SNAP

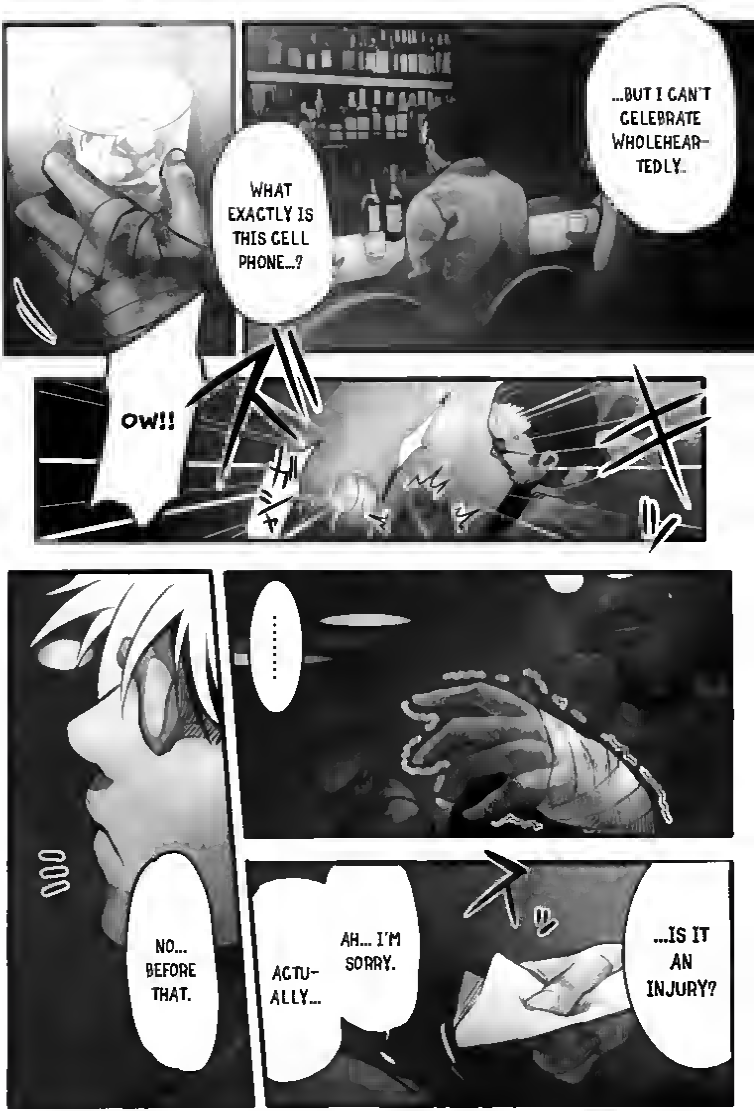






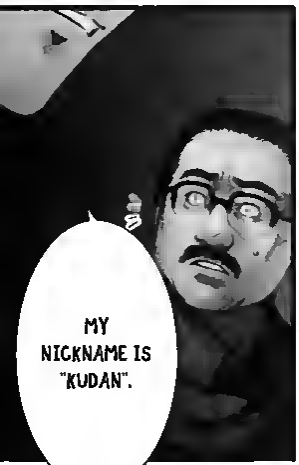
SFX: VIBRATE X4

LIBER
WHILE HAVING HIS DISCIPLE HOLD UP A PLACARD DEMANDING DEMOCRACY,
HE DOUSED HIMSELF WITH GASOLINE AND WAS BURNED TO DEATH...
WHAT I SAW WAS THE PRIEST'S SUICIDE.
MY COMPANY WAS PLEASED...
THAT I GOT SUCH GREAT SCOOPS TWO DAYS IN A ROW.
AND THEN...
YES...
I WENT THERE.
SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2:11PM
YUNGO PAGODA
RITT TEMPLE
FRONT PLAZA


...BUT I CAN'T CELEBRATE WHOLEHEARTEDLY.
WHAT EXACTLY IS THIS CELL PHONE...?
OW!!
.....
...IS IT AN INJURY?
AH... I'M SORRY.
ACTUALLY...
NO... BEFORE THAT.

DO YOU... BELIEVE SUCH A STRANGE STORY...?
IT IS NOT MY PLACE TO DECIDE WHETHER A STORY IS BELIEVABLE OR NOT.

I AM MERELY A COLLECTOR OF SUCH "CURIOUS STORIES."
I THOUGHT I HAD INTRODUCED MYSELF AS SUCH EARLIER...?


MY NICKNAME IS "KUDAN".

AH... OH, THAT'S RIGHT... UM....
WHAT WAS YOUR NAME...?

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL ME.
ON THE WEBSITE I MANAGE, "13 CLUB"...
...I GOT IT, KUDAN-SAN.
IT HAPPENED ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO.
SEPTEMBER 22ND, 9:30PM. BEKU VINA STREET

...SO THIS IS THE BAR THAT THE NATIONAL ARMY TROOPS FREQUENT..
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN HERE...
SEPTEMBER 22ND 10.02PM 33 BEKU VINA STREET
WHAT ON EARTH WILL HAPPEN TODAY...
...IT'S AL-MOST TIME.
!!
THE SAME DAY, 9.58PM

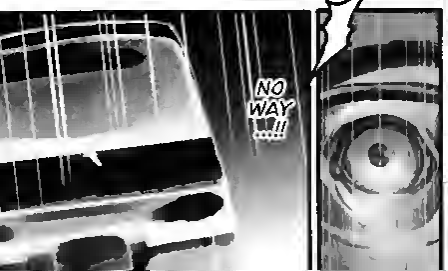
にぃ♥
I CAN CARRY YOUR BAGGAGE FOR A DOLLAR EVERY 30 MINUTES.
ARE YOU WAITING FOR SOMEONE?
ひょっ
!?
IS THIS THAT GIRL FROM BEFORE?
Wah--This is heavy! What's in it?
ｵｵｵｵｵ
!
AH!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP! THIS CAMERA IS MY LIFE! NO ONE BESIDES ME CAN TOUCH IT!
GO HOME AND SLEEP, LITTLE GIRL!!

...HURRY!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!!

.....

SEPTEMBER
22ND
10:02PM
33 BEKU
VINA STREET

DON'T SAY THAT, I'LL TAKE A DOLLAR AN HOUR...
...WHAT IS THIS? THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE SOLDIERS...

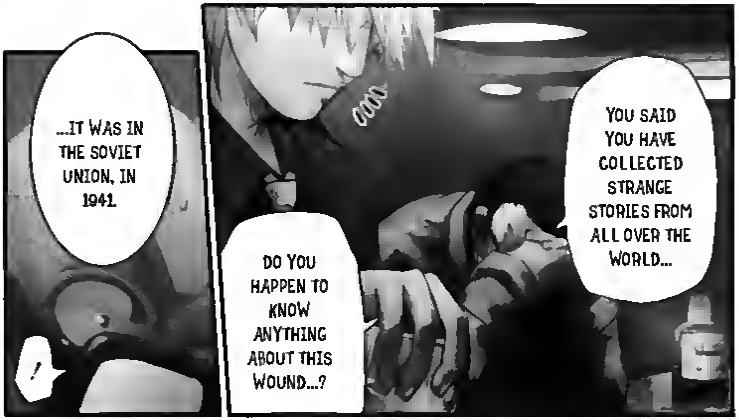

NO WAY!!!

CAR BOMBING!!!
!?
GET DOWN !!!
GUH !
UWAAH!
KYAAA!!

Nihon
DON'T GET IN MY WAY!!
GO HOME NOW IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!!
THANK—
U, UM...
...!!

I NOTICED THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG AFTER I GOT BACK TO THE HOTEL...
カチャ
カチャ
OUCH!!
...A WOUND...?
BUT YOU WERE WRONG...?
AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS FROM THE EXPLOSION...
.....

MY HAND STARTED TO ROT FROM THE WOUND...
I SHOWED IT TO DOCTORS, BUT THEY DIDN'T KNOW THE CAUSE...
I CAN'T EVEN FEEL MY FINGER-TIPS ANYMORE ...!!
ALL THIS TIME... I VE ENDURED FOR 20 YEARS, WAITING FOR THIS BIG BREAK...!!
BUT... WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING ...!?
SHIT!!!


...IT WAS IN THE SOVIET UNION, IN 1941.
DO YOU HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS WOUND...?
YOU SAID YOU HAVE COLLECTED STRANGE STORIES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD...

THEY LIVED IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA NEAR A FACTORY, SO THE AREA INADVERTENTLY BECAME THE TARGET OF GERMANS BOMBS.
IT APPEARED AS IF SHE WAS AFFLICTED WITH GANGRENE*, BUT THE CAUSE WAS UNKNOWN.
SO SHE MOVED HER FAMILY MEMBERS AWAY FROM DANGER
DURING THE WAR, IN A TOWN CALLED KIEV, A GIRL WAS PRAYING WHEN SHE HEARD A WARNING.
HOWEVER, AFTER THAT, STRANGE WOUNDS BEGAN TO OPEN UP, AND HER ENTIRE BODY STARTED TO ROT.
HER PARENTS, ALONG WITH HER SISTER, WERE ALL UNHARMED.

T/N: Gangrene is a disease categorized by decay of body tissues.

"MY FATE WAS CHANGED WHEN I HEARD THE DIVINE MESSAGE AT THAT TIME."
"BUT TO CHANGE FATE.. WAS I ALLOWED TO CHOOSE BETWEEN PEOPLE'S LIFE OR DEATH?"
"PERHAPS THESE WOUNDS ARE A PUNISHMENT FOR THOSE WHO DEFY FATE..."

WHEN I PERSONALLY MET HER, SHE WAS ALREADY AN OLD WOMAN..
SHE WAS STILL ALIVE EVEN THOUGH HER WOUNDS HAD NOT DISAPPEARED
SHE TOLD ME THIS

A- AND WHAT... ABOUT HER?
.....
"IF LETTING THE CONDEMNED LIVE WOULD TILT THE SCALE OF FATE,
"AND THEN USING THE NEXT MESSAGE, I CORRECTED THE SCALE."
THEN I THOUGHT THAT MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE THE SCALE LEVEL AGAIN."
...IS WHAT SHE SAID WITH A SMILE.

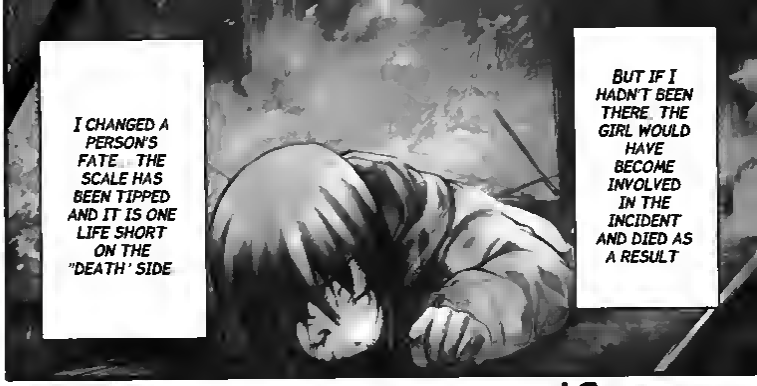
カラン
ズズー
ブンブン
THAT IS ALL I KNOW. ...WELL THEN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTERESTING STORY.
AFTER YOU RETURN TO JAPAN, PLEASE POST THAT STORY ON MY WEBSITE...
ニヤリ
バタン
-4 DAYS LATER-
OCTOBER 6TH, 1:46PM, VIN SANTO 40TH AVENUE

...SO ANYWAY,
I SAID THIS TO HIM.
WHAT YOU HAVE ON YOUR HEAD IS A RED WASH BASIN... HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING?
...HEY.
DON'T YOU THINK THIS CAR IS SHAKING IN A STRANGE WAY?
YEAH... IT'S TIME TO CHANGE THE TIRE. THE CAR HAS BEEN WEIRD LATELY.
IT'S PRETTY SCARY... WILL IT BE OK?
IT'LL BE FINE.
JUST HANG ON FOR 2 OR 3 MORE KILOME-TRES
ブスッ
ブスッ

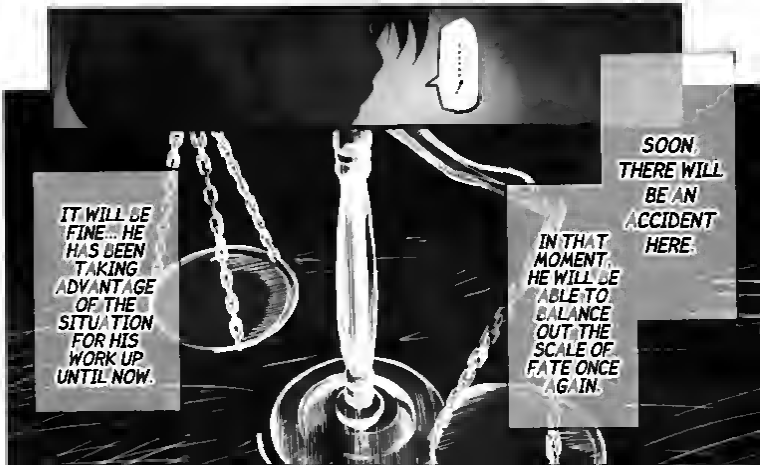
SIR, I'M GLAD THAT YOU DECIDED TO WORK WITH ME AGAIN.
THE SAME DAY 1:50PM VIN SANTO 42ND AVENUE INTERSECTION

HAHA... NO WAY.
I THOUGHT YOU MUST HAVE HATED ME FOR SURE.

Y... YEAH.
THAT TIME I UNEXPE-CTEDLY SAVED A GIRL.
OCTOBER 6TH 1:57PM VIN SANTO 42ND AVENUE INTERSECTION
BUT IS SOMETHING REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN HERE?
I DIDN'T GET ANY INFORMATION FROM MY SOURCES.


I CHANGED A PERSON'S FATE. THE SCALE HAS BEEN TIPPED AND IT IS ONE LIFE SHORT ON THE "DEATH" SIDE.
BUT IF I HADN'T BEEN THERE, THE GIRL WOULD HAVE BECOME INVOLVED IN THE INCIDENT AND DIED AS A RESULT.

LET'S GO HAVE A DRINK.
...NAH, TODAY I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE OTHER DAY, FOR NEGLECTING YOU.


IT WILL BE FINE... HE HAS BEEN TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION FOR HIS WORK UP UNTIL NOW.
IN THAT MOMENT, HE WILL BE ABLE TO BALANCE OUT THE SCALE OF FATE ONCE AGAIN.
SOON, THERE WILL BE AN ACCIDENT HERE.

BE USEFUL FOR THIS ONE LAST TIME..
WH-WHAT WAS THAT SOUND!?
THE TIRE IS BUSTED!!
THE STEER-ING WHEEL IS NOT MOV-ING...!!
IS THAT IT?!

スッ
IF I PUSH HIM HERE...
ALRIGHT...
ぽ
!!!
T/N: She's saying it in Japanese
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
にこにこ
HEY AGAIN!
SORRY FOR RUNNING AWAY WITHOUT THANKING YOU LAST TIME!

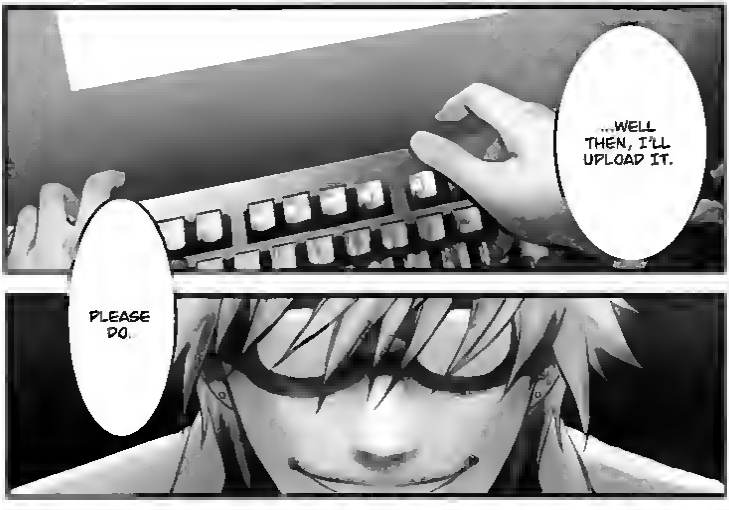
WHY IS SHE HERE...!!
THIS IS THE GIRL FROM THAT TIME...
SIR, WATCH OUT!!

I'M DONE.

I ORGANIZED THE STORY OF THE PHOTO-GRAPHER YOU COLLECTED IN SOUTH-EASTERN ASIA LAST WEEK
SHOULD I CONTACT HIM FOR PERMISSION TO UPLOAD THE STORY TO THE WEBSITE?

.....
...NO, THERE IS NO NEED.
I DARE SAY THAT HE IS UNABLE TO REPLY...
...THAT'S TRUE.
BUT...

WHAT WAS IT ABOUT?
AN UNKNOWN CELLPHONE... AND THEN THE MESSAGES THAT WERE "PREDICTIONS"...
AS FOR THAT...
HOWEVER...
IF I MUST TAKE A GUESS, PERHAPS THEY WERE LEAKED BY THE GOD WHO GOVERNS FATE.
.....
I DO NOT BELIEVE HUMANS CAN BECOME HAPPY KNOWING SUCH THINGS...



- WELCOME TO 13 CLUB -

Enter

STORY 1 / END

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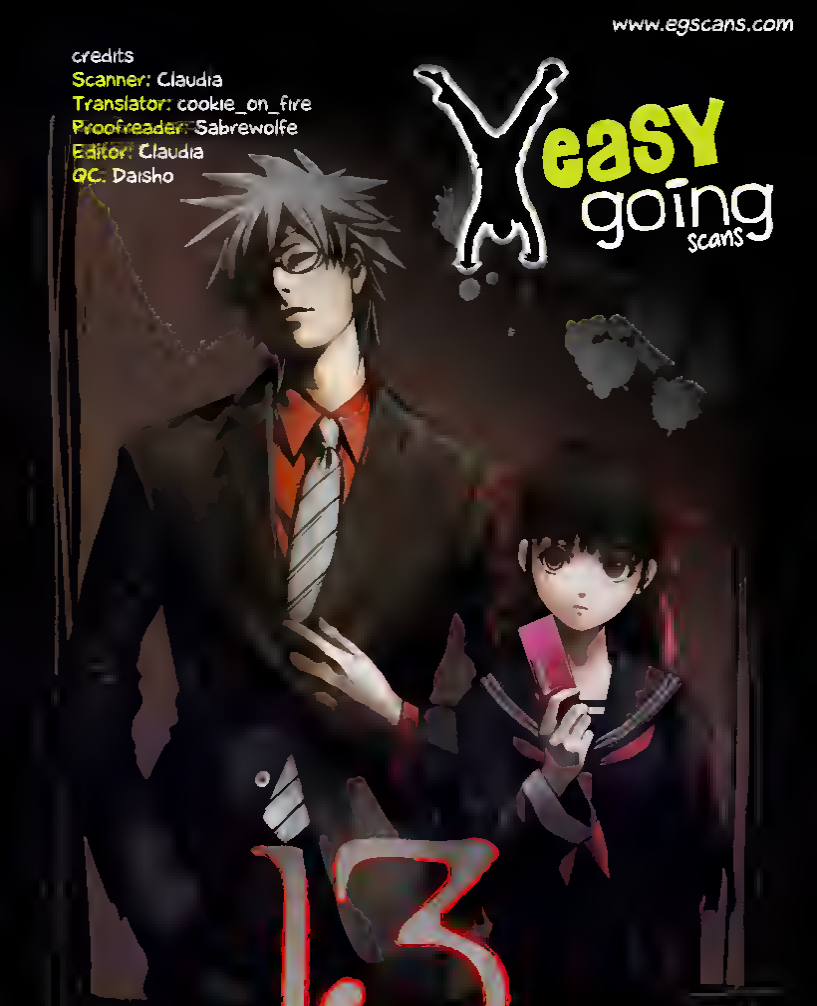

13 club

by SHIHIRA Tatsuya

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Easy Going scans

Currently recruiting for the folliwing positions.
If you are interested in helping out visit our website or forum to apply.

RECRUITING

JAPANESE TRANSLATORS

We are looking for people fluent in the Japanese language to help us out with several new series we have in mind.

EDITORS

We are looking for experienced edit[illegible] people with goo[illegible] and fonts kn[illegible] for this [illegible]

CLEANERS

If you hav[illegible] of photosh[illegible] willing to help us out please apply for a Cleaners position.

RANDROM RANTS

Daisho

Hey all, before I start I should probably point out the disclaimer saying that this is fiction but it's interesting to note that the 13 club actually existed although the premise is that if thirteen people sit at a table together one will die. In seven years it gained 400 members and five US presidents.

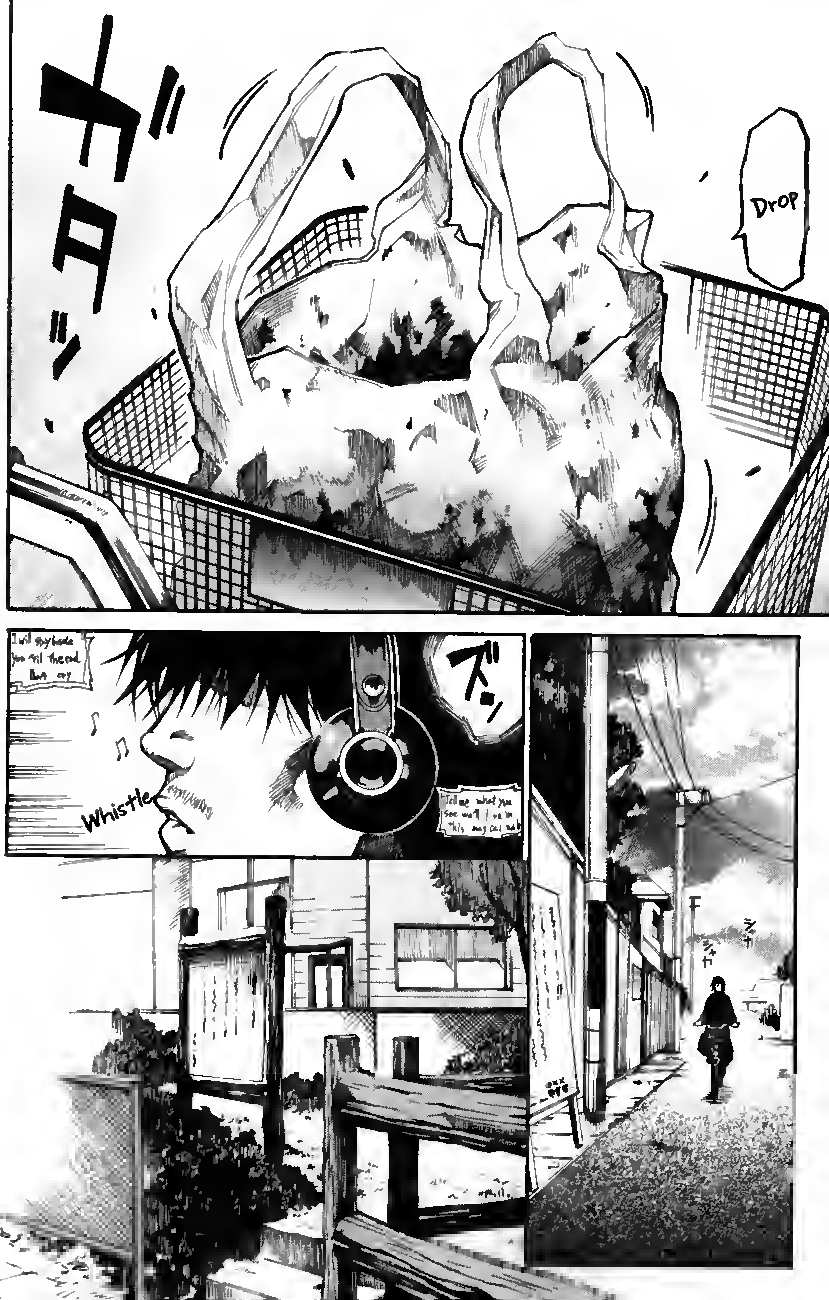
Claudia

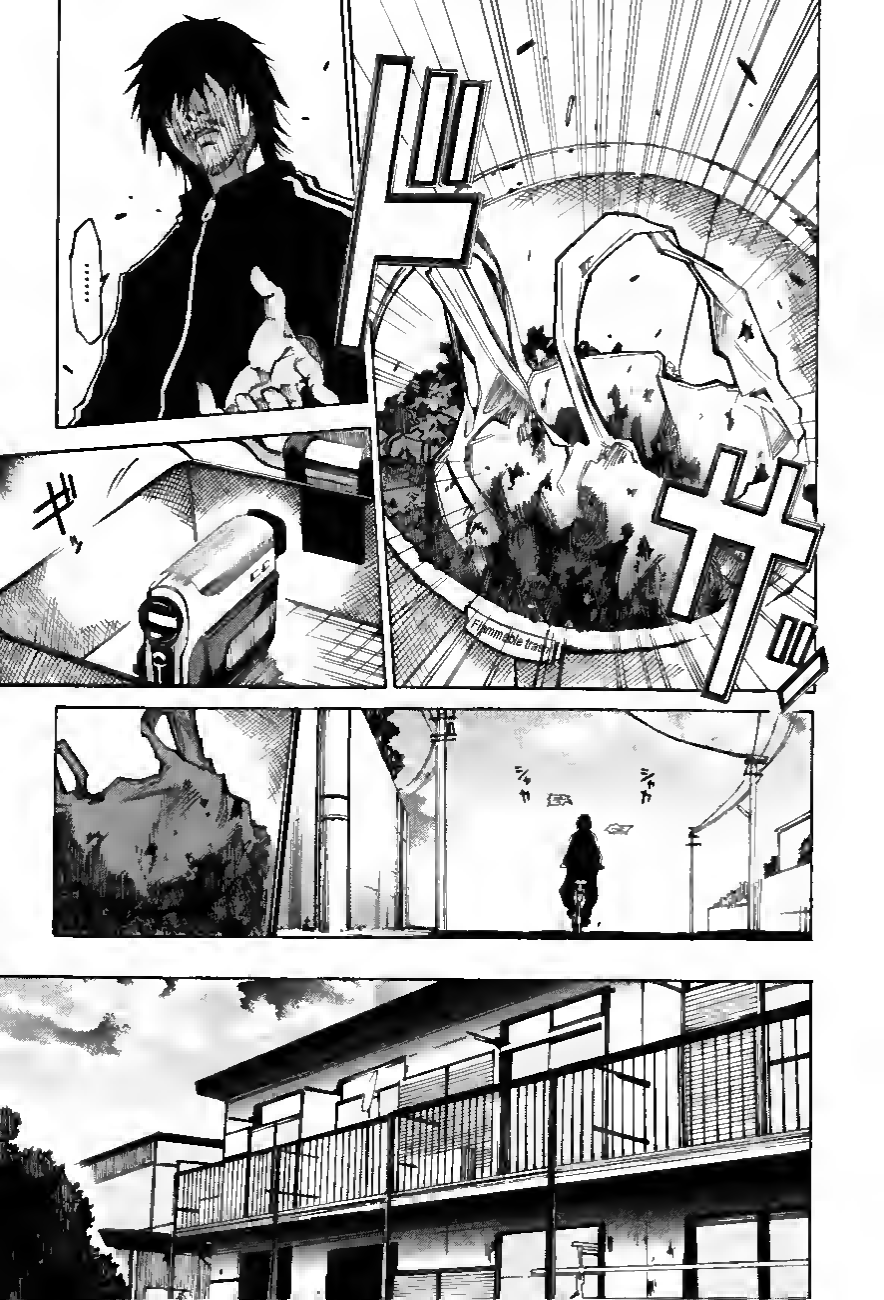
New awsome project YAYYYYYYYYY
Did I mention that we are looking for more editors, typesseters and cleaners?? WE DOOOOOO
So please apply!!!

easy going scans

Contact info: easygoingscans@gmail.com
www.egscans.com

MeSaru Iwamoto
Ako
IF YOU OBTAIN THE POWER TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH OF OTHERS ONE DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WILL YOU SERIOUSLY JUDGE THEM, AND CORRECTLY USE THAT POWER...
OR...
STORY 2: JUDGMENT


ドロ
Drop
ズン
Whistle


……
ドン
ギッ
Unfortunate trash
シャカ
シャカ

Room 304
Ozaki
I'M BACK.
OH, WELCOME BACK. HOW WAS HELLO WORK?
DOES IT LOOK LIKE YOU'LL FIND SOMEWHERE GOOD?
TL's Note: Hello Work is the name of the Japanese government employment agency.
HMM...
I'LL BORROW YOUR PC.
WAIT A SECOND, USING THE INTERNET AGAIN!? YOU'RE GOING TO PEEP AT SOME WEIRD SITE AGAIN, AREN'T YOU!?
PART-TIME WORKER
OZAKI AKO (23)

...IF I COULDN'T USE A PC, UPLOADING VIDEO WOULD BE A PAIN.
UNEMPLOYED IWAMOTO MASARU (24)
Click
---Welcome to 13club---

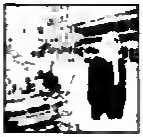
戻る 検索 お気に入り

アドレス(D)

13club

- 奇妙な出来事
- 都市伝説
- 知られざる事件
- 掲示板
- 過去版／映像資料版
- メール

トピックス



カメラマンの遺した謎の情報 (10/6)

東南アジア某国で起きている民主化運動を取材中の日本人カメラマンが、現地にて銃殺される事件が発生している。
ご存じの通り、現地での様々な活動は軍事政権側からの厳しい監視下にあり、正に命がけの取材も珍しくない状況になっている。そんな中、カメラマンの残したメモのところどころ奇妙な情報が読み取れるようになった。彼の持つ機材とその記録する事柄についてのメールが届くようになったのだ。

イギリスの古城で撮られた心霊映像 (10/21)

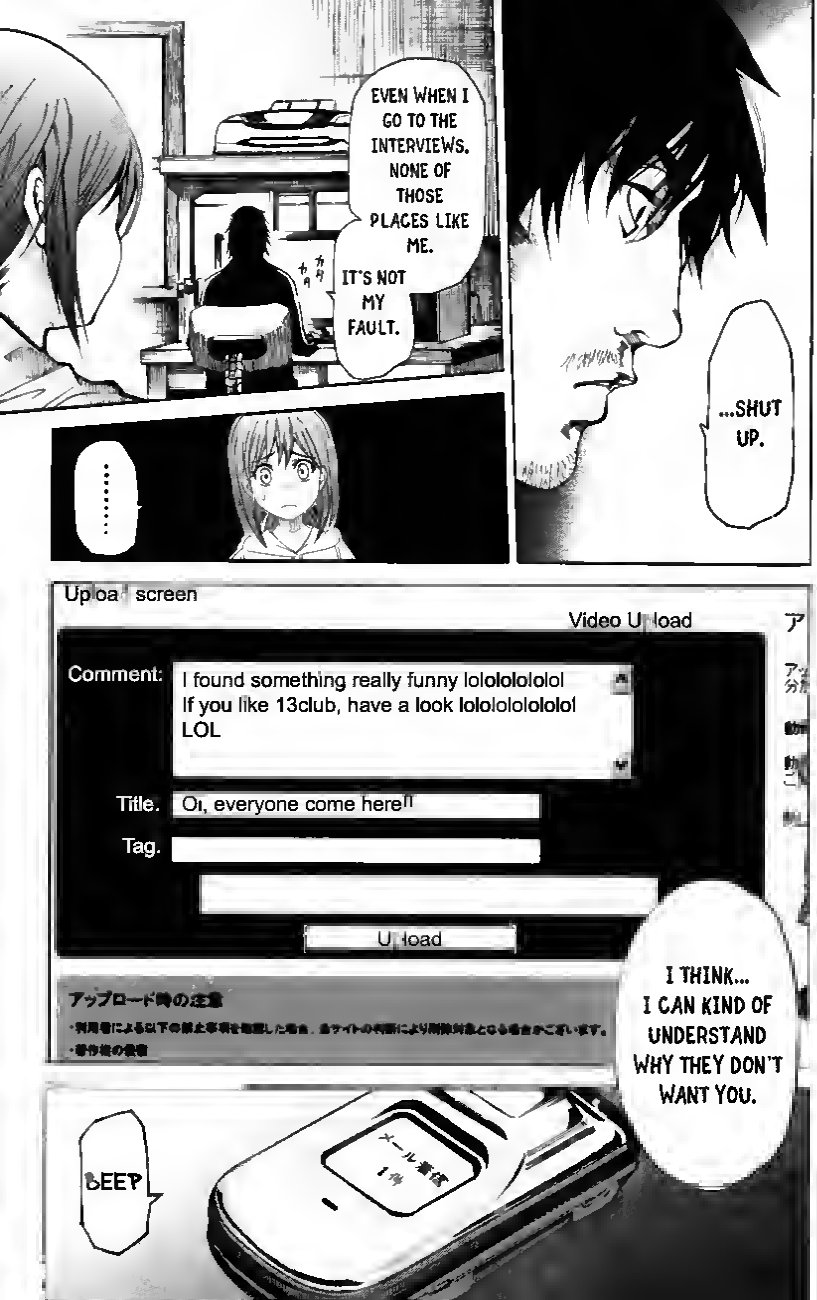
ウィンチェスター ハウス幽霊ツアー参加レポート (11/2)

中国の奥地で伝説の 猿人 発見か？ (11/7)

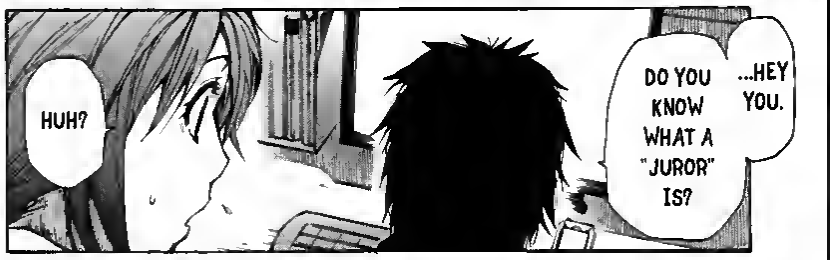
ブラジル人学者 ブランセが新たな予言 (11/13)

最新オンラインゲーム
リアルアサシン

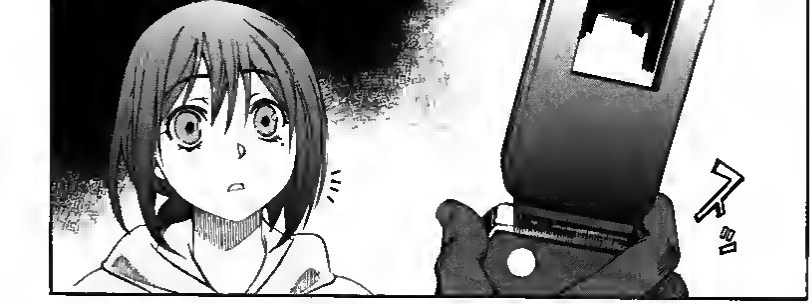
TL's Note: The news article at the top features the death of the photographer from the previous chapter.

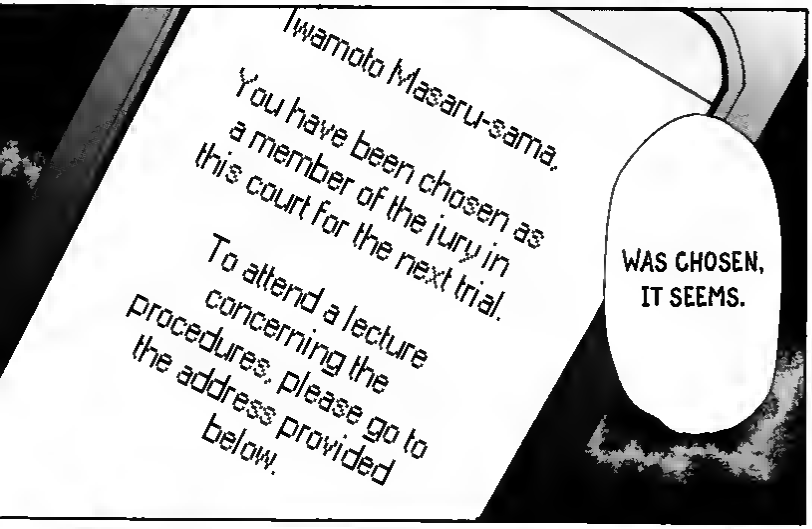

EVEN WHEN I GO TO THE INTERVIEWS, NONE OF THOSE PLACES LIKE ME.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
カカカ
.....
...SHUT UP.
Upload screen
Video Upload
Comment:
I found something really funny lolololololol
If you like 13club, have a look lolololololololol
LOL
Title.
Oi, everyone come here!!
Tag.
Upload
アップロード時の注意
I THINK... I CAN KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHY THEY DON'T WANT YOU.
BEEP
メール着信
1件

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
VIBRATE
VIBRATE
.....
珍しいね
ヤボっ
WHAT ...?
WHO IS IT FROM?


...HEY YOU.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "JUROR" IS?
HUH?

Y...YEAH. THEY SAID SOMETHING ABOUT IT ON TV.
ABOUT HOW THEY LET NORMAL PEOPLE TO JUDGE CRIMINALS...
I...


ﾌﾞﾙﾙ


Iwamoto Masaru-sama.
You have been chosen as a member of the jury in this court for the next trial.
To attend a lecture concerning the procedures, please go to the address provided below.
WAS CHOSEN, IT SEEMS.

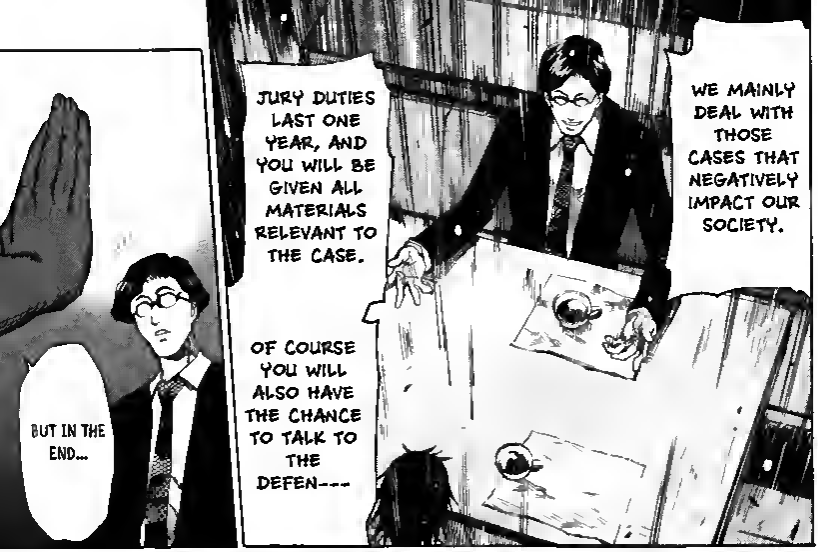
NICE TO MEET YOU
YOU MUST BE... IWAMOTO MASARU-SAN

.....
YEAH ...

WELCOME.
EXCUSE ME FOR THE LATE INTRODUCTION. I AM NOGATA.
...OH

……
…SO, WHAT DO I NEED TO DO?
I'M BUSY, SO CAN YOU EXPLAIN IT QUICKLY?
IN RECENT YEARS,
THERE HAS BEEN A SURGE OF INDISCRIMINATE KILLERS, WHO VIOLENTLY KILL THOSE UNABLE TO FIGHT BACK, LIKE YOUNG WOMEN.
WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?

YES... EVERYONE THINKS AND ANSWERS LIKE THAT.
ABOUT THAT... I GUESS THEY'RE UNFORGIVABLE CRIMES...
IT MIGHT BE GOOD TO GATHER NORMAL CITIZENS TO TRIAL THE ACCUSED.
SO WE THOUGH, INSTEAD OF HAVING JUDGES APPOINTED BY THE GOVERMENT
FOR SUCH CASES THAT GREATLY AFFECT OUR SOCIETY,
WE HAVE INTRODUCED THIS SYSTEM.
TO MAKE EVERYDAY CITIZENS THINKING "OUR SOCIETY HAS MORALS"
...IN OTHER WORDS,


WE MAINLY DEAL WITH THOSE CASES THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACT OUR SOCIETY.
JURY DUTIES LAST ONE YEAR, AND YOU WILL BE GIVEN ALL MATERIALS RELEVANT TO THE CASE.
OF COURSE YOU WILL ALSO HAVE THE CHANCE TO TALK TO THE DEFEN---
BUT IN THE END...

WHAT'S THE THING THAT I GOTTA DO?
...YOU WILL DETERMINE THE VERDICT, AND IF GUILTY, THE SEVERITY OF THE CRIME.

WILL THERE BE ANY TROUBLE FOR ME?
LIKE PEOPLE KNOWING MY NAME AND STUFF?
NONE.
!
...OR HAVING RESTRICTIONS BECAUSE OF THE TRIALS...
NONE.

GULP...
YOUR NAME SHALL REMAIN ANONYMOUS.
...IN ADDITION,
IF YOU ARE TOO BUSY, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE TO USE THIS TO PARTICIPATE.
WE WILL TAKE ON ALL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE TRIALS.
DC-NOM20
ゴト...

SO, I CAN ALSO JUDGE PEOPLE VIA THE INTERNET.
...I SEE.
OK. SOUNDS INTERESTING ENOUGH.
I'LL DO IT.

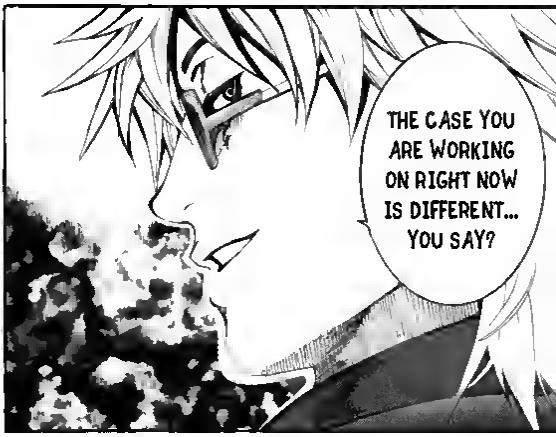
...AND THEN...
...YEAH.
I DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THEIR TRIALS.

THROUGH THE CAMERA, THE MIXED EMOTIONS OF ANGER AND SADNESS ON THE FACE OF THE ACCUSER
THE LOOK OF FEAR ON THE FACE OF THE ACCUSED.
AND THE ANNOYANCE OF HAVING A QUESTION OF ILL-WILL THROWN AT THEM...
IT WAS ALL FUN AND EXHILARATING...
...I SEE. YOU SOUND LIKE THE PERFECT MAN FOR THE JOB.
AND... THE VERDICTS FOR THE ACCUSED?

THEY WERE ALL TRASH OF SOCIETY, LIKE ARSONISTS, RAPISTS, AND ROBBERS.
OF COURSE IT'S "GUILTY".
NO MATTER WHAT EXCUSES THEY USE, MY DECISION WAS FINAL.

BUT...

...AH


THE CASE YOU ARE WORKING ON RIGHT NOW IS DIFFERENT... YOU SAY?

THIS TIME, THE ACCUSED IS... AKO!!
SHE DEFINITELY DIDN'T DO IT...!!

.....
...THAT WOULD BE...

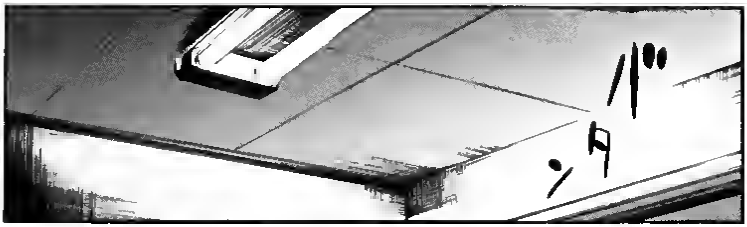
AND THE CRIME...

KILLING CATS...
FOR ABOUT THREE MONTHS NOW, PIECES OF KITTEN CORPSES HAVE BEEN FOUND ALL OVER THE CITY.
THAT IS THE CRIME SHE HAS BEEN ACCUSED FOR, RIGHT?
I BEG YOU! PLEASE CONFIRM MY STORY!!
OTHER THAN WHEN I SUBMITTED THE VIDEO FOR YOUR SITE, I DID THE REST AT INTERNET CAFES! BESIDES THAT ONE TIME THAT I USED HER COMPUTER TO SUBMIT THE VIDEO TO YOUR SITE, ALL THE REST WAS DONE AT INTERNET CAFES!
I JUST HAPPENED TO BE USING HER PC AT THE TIME...
.....
...YEAH, THAT'S IT.
...THAT WOULD BE IMPOS-SIBLE. IT IS DETERMINED BY IP ADDRESS.
THE ONLY WAY TO DISPROVE IT WOULD BE...

IF THE REAL CULPRIT... IN OTHER WORDS, YOU,
WERE TO COME FORWARD.
MY SITE "13CLUB" IS FOR GATHERING MYSTERIOUS AND CURIOUS STORIES. BASICALLY, THINGS THAT YOU WOULD NOT KNOW FROM DAILY LIFE
AS A RESULT, WE DO RECEIVE GROTESQUE SUBMISSIONS FROM TIME TO TIME.
BUT... YOUR VIDEO WAS DIFFERENT.
13club

IT HAS NEITHER AESTHETICS NOR MEANING.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT DROVE YOU TO MAKE IT, BESIDES INDUCING SHOCK AND DISGUST TO OTHERS,
YOU TOOK A VIDEO OF DISMEMBERING AN INNOCENT KITTEN WHILE IT WAS STILL ALIVE.

WHAT REASON DO I HAVE TO HELP SOMEONE LIKE YOU...?



HE'S NOT DEALING WITH THE GOVERN-MENT, BUT AN UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION PRACTICING LYNCH LAW.
...HOW ABSURD. YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST TOLD HIM THE TRUTH.
カチ
カチ

TL's Note: Lynch law means punishing someone by the agreement of a crowd... without having a genuine trial.

HOWEVER, NOW THEY RECEIVED ENOUGH FUNDING FROM SOMEWHERE SO WHAT THEY DID IN THE BACK-GROUND BECAME REAL PRACTICE.
.. TRUE. AT FIRST THEY SYMPATHIZED WITH THE VICTIMS, CHASED AFTER THE CRIMINALS VIA THE INTERNET AND CALLED THEMSELVES THE "VIGILANCE COMMITTEE"
AS A FELLOW UNDERGROUND INTERNET DWELLER, I DO NOT WANT TO PROVOKE THEM UNNECESSARILY.
AND THEY DECIDED TO ADOPT THIS NEW JURY SYSTEM INSTEAD OF HAVING THE TIME-COSTLY TRIALS.
HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF THE PILGRIM EXPERIMENT?
...BUT IS THAT GUY REALLY GOING TO HELP HER LIKE HE SAID HE WOULD?

IN 1962 A BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGIST BY THE NAME OF PILGRIM CONDUCTED A LARGE-SCALE EXPERIMENT ON DOZENS OF TEST SUBJECTS
THEY WERE TO APPLY ELECTRICAL SHOCKS TO INNOCENT PEOPLE AND GRADUALLY INCREASED THE VOLTAGE TO THE LETHAL LEVEL.
...NATURALLY, PILGRIM'S FELLOW RESEARCHERS ONLY PRETENDED TO INCREASE THE VOLTAGE...
BUT THE SUBJECTS, NOT KNOWING THAT FACT, HEARD THE CRIES OF PAIN AND WANTED TO STOP THE SHOCKS.
...HOWEVER, PILGRIM SAID THIS TO THEM:

"PLEASE CONTINUE TO INCREASE THE VOLTAGE"
"I WILL TAKE ALL RESPONSIBILITY ...HE SAID

THAT WAS THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE EXPERIMENT.
..YES
- AFTER THAT, CLOSE TO 70% OF THE TEST SUBJECTS RAISED THE VOLTAGE TO THE LETHAL POINT

...IN OTHER WORDS?
THAT IS WHAT I WANTED TO SAY.
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED FROM IT.
WAS THAT "PEOPLE ABANDON THEIR SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG WHEN THEY ARE NOT HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS."

THEY ARE ALSO ON TRIAL IN THAT SYSTEM

JUST LIKE HOW HE PASS JUDGMENT TO OTHERS AS A JUROR...

...AND JUST LIKE WHAT HE DID TO THE INNOCENT KITTENS...

...HOW UNFORTUNATE.
VERY AMUSING...
YOU WERE SUCH AN EXCELLENT JUROR. YET HELPING AN ACCUSED ESCAPE IS...

TL's Note: Everyone said guilty. The bottom panel said "Go die"

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13
サーティーンクラブ
club

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credits
Scanner: Claudia
Translator: cookie_on_fire
Proofreader: Med
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QC: Claudia

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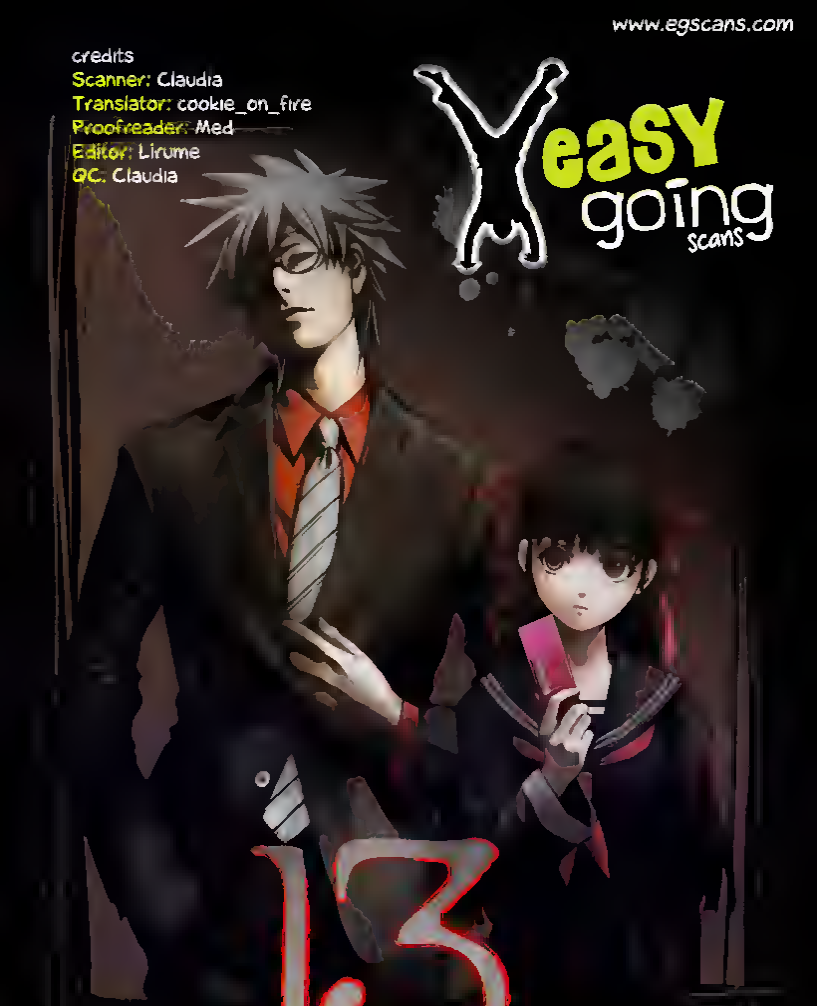

13 club

by SHIHIRA Tatsuya

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Proofreader: Claudia
Cleaner: Ehssty
Typesetter: Claudia
QC: Daisho

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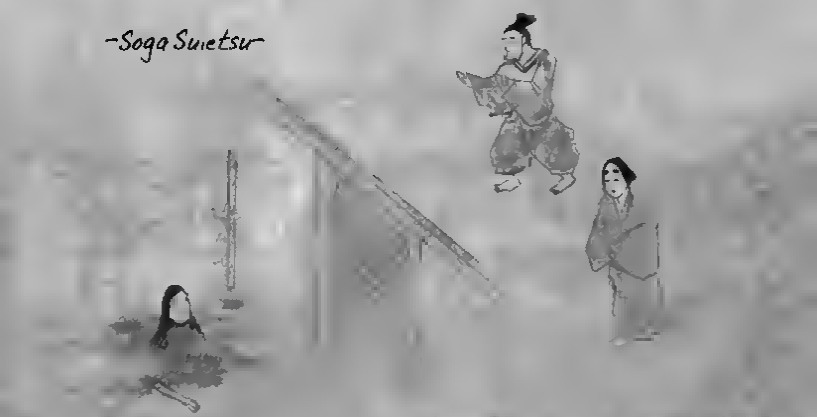
Long ago, there was a merchant
who was very devoted to his family.

On New Year's Eve, an aristocrat stopped by his house.
"I'm lost. Please let me stay for the night." He said.

Seeing the visitor with beautiful kimono and fine
possessions, he opened the doors without any hesitation.
(Omission)

The daughter's heart was moved by the aristocrat,
and she invited him to her bedroom.
That night, a voice could be heard from inside the bedroom
saying, "It hurts, it hurts!"
Her parents thought it was simply the pain from her first
time.
The next day, as they called out to their daughter, there
was no response.
And once they opened the door, they discovered that she
has been eaten all up, except her head and one arm.
Although they were very sad for their loss, soon after,
their fortunes increased, and they became the richest
merchants in the area.

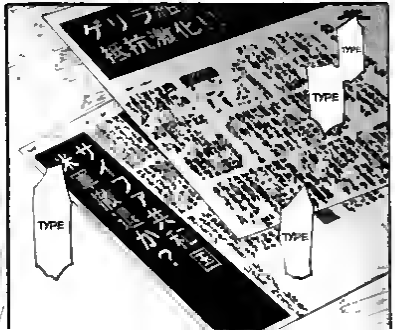
-Soga Suietsu



MIDDLE EAST
REPUBLIC OF CIPHER

FEDERATION NEWS
AGENCY

Phew...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FEDERATION NEWS AGENCY REPORTER
-HAJI MOTOHIKO-

ガーチャ
BAD NEWS, HAJI!!!

ざわっ
AND THE JAPANESE HAVE BEEN CAPTURED!!
THE UNIT DARK WATER WAS AMBUSHED,

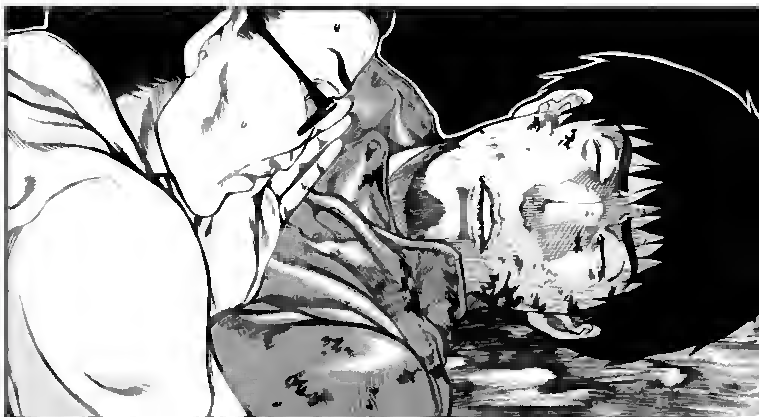
IS IT CHIGIRA!?
ざわ
ざわ
Crack
This is terrible ...
MOVE, MOVE!!
MOVE ASIDE FOR THE NEWS AGENCY!!

HURRY AND LET THEM DOWN!!
OVER THERE, MOVE!!

……
THE VEHICLE THEY WERE RIDING WAS SUDDENLY HIT.
AND AFTER THE CAR FLIPPED OVER, THEY WERE ATTACKED...
ガシャ
ガシャ
CALL A DOCTOR!!
OI! THIS GUY'S STILL BREATHING!!
MERCENARY GROUP DARK WATER
-CHIGIRA HATSUMI-

ARE YOU ALRIGHT HATSUMI?!
CHIGIRA!! OI, CHIGIRA!!

HANG ON! DON'T YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO JAPAN!?
.....!
QUIET...
Z
...HA... NAJI, IS IT?
HATSUMI...!!!



.....
YOU KNOW HIM... RIGHT?
!
HIS LAST WORDS WERE...
"PLEASE."
"Protect... my sister..."

CHIGIRA HATSUMI WAS MY ONLY JAPANESE FRIEND IN THE MIDDLE EAST

I WAS SENT THERE THREE YEARS AGO AS PART OF MY JOB BUT CHIGIRA CAME ON HIS OWN
AS A MEMBER OF THE DARK WATER AN AMERICAN MERCENARY ORGANIZATION THAT SENDS TROOPS TO AREAS WITH DISPUTES

WHILE COVERING THE DARK WATER GROUP FRANKLY, I ONLY BECAME FRIENDS WITH HIM BECAUSE HE WAS A FELLOW JAPANESE.
HOW-EVER,
CHIGIRA NEVER MENTIONED WHY HE DECIDED TO LEAVE JAPAN FOR HIS CURRENT LIFE.
I MANAGED TO DIG OUT FROM VARIOUS SOURCES THAT HIS FAMILY IS RICH.
BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THEM.
ゴオオオ

AND RIGHT AS HE WAS PLANNING TO GO BACK TO JAPAN AND HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH THEM
THAT INCI-DENT HAP-PENED.
IN THE END HE RETURNED TO HIS HOMETOWN IN A BOX.
DELIVERED BY MY HANDS

EXCUSE ME.
WHEN IS THE NEXT TRAIN TO UDOU?
XX PREFECTURE MUSHIN/STATION

WAITING ROOM
IN ABOUT 30 MINUTES. IF YOU MISS THAT ONE, THERE WON'T BE ANOTHER UNTIL MIDNIGHT.
UNLIKE BEFORE, THERE ARE ONLY FOUR TRAINS RUNNING PER DAY NOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
XX PREFECTURE UDOU. A SMALL CITY VULGARLY REFERRED TO AS THE BEAR FIELD.
CHIGIRA'S HOMETOWN.

ボッ
Sit

ARE YOU HERE ON VACATIONS?

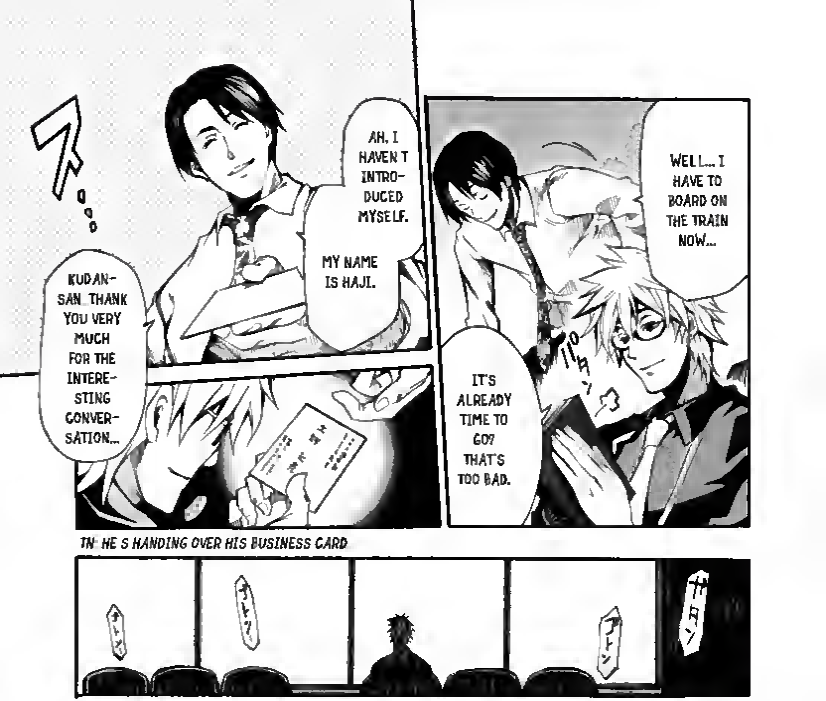
.. EXCUSE ME, BUT YOU ARE?
"KUDAN".
WHAT THERE WAS SOMEONE HERE ?
NO, A FRIEND PASSED AWAY, SO I'M DELIVERING HIS REMAINS TO THE FAMILY...

MY NICKNAME IS "KUDAN"
I MANAGE A SITE THAT COLLECTS STRANGE STORIES...
AND I AM HERE TO FIND ONE.
AH... NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THIS PLACE IS A TREASURE VAULT FOR TALES AND MYTHS HUH.
YES, YOU ARE WELL INFORMED...
HAHA. YOU MUST WORK IN A NEWS AGENCY.
MAY I HAVE A CIGARETTE?
GO AHEAD.

THE BEAR FIELD HAS A MOUNTAIN RANGE, AND IT'S ALSO CLOSE TO THE SEA.
THAT'S WHY THIS AREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN FULL OF RELIGIONS INVOLVING NATURE DEITIES SINCE ANCIENT TIMES.
BY WORSHIPPING THE MOUNTAIN GOD AND OCEAN GOD, PEOPLE PRAYED FOR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS.
NOWEVER, THOSE GODS WERE FORGOTTEN AS BUDDHISM AND SHINTO RELIGION SPREAD.
NOW THEY ARE NO MORE THAN BEINGS MENTIONED IN TALES AND LEGENDS.

FOR EXAMPLE, THIS BOOK, WRITTEN IN THE EDO PERIOD, HAS A COLLECTION WITH ALL THE TALES FROM THIS AREA.
IN HERE, THERE IS A STORY WHERE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, AFTER ALLOWING A STRANGER TO STAY IN HIS HOUSE, A POOR MERCHANT BECAME RICH.
IT'S THOUGHT TO BE A VARIATION OF TOSHIGAMI* FOLKLORE... BUT...
*TN: TOSHIGAMI IS THE DEITY OF YEAR IN THE SHINTO BELIEF
USUALLY, THOSE GODS REQUEST... OFFERINGS IN EXCHANGE FOR WEALTH OR BLESSINGS.
AND OFTEN THEY ARE SAKE OR FOOD...
...BUT?

IN THIS CASE,
IT'S HUMANS.
WELL IT'S NOT LIKE SOMETHING I HAVEN'T HEARD BEFORE...
THE THEME OF HUMAN SACRIFICES IS USED IN FOLKLORES ALL OVER THE WORLD
LIKE KUSHINADA-HIME, WHO EXTERMINATED THE OROCHI IN IZUMO MYTHOLOGY, OR ANDROMEDA FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY...
.....
HUMANS... HUH.
HEY YOU! THE TRAIN IS HERE!! YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO MISS IT!!


WELL... I HAVE TO BOARD ON THE TRAIN NOW...
IT'S ALREADY TIME TO GO? THAT'S TOO BAD.
AH, I HAVEN'T INTRO-DUCED MYSELF.
MY NAME IS HAJI.
KUDAN-SAN THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE INTERE-STING CONVER-SATION...

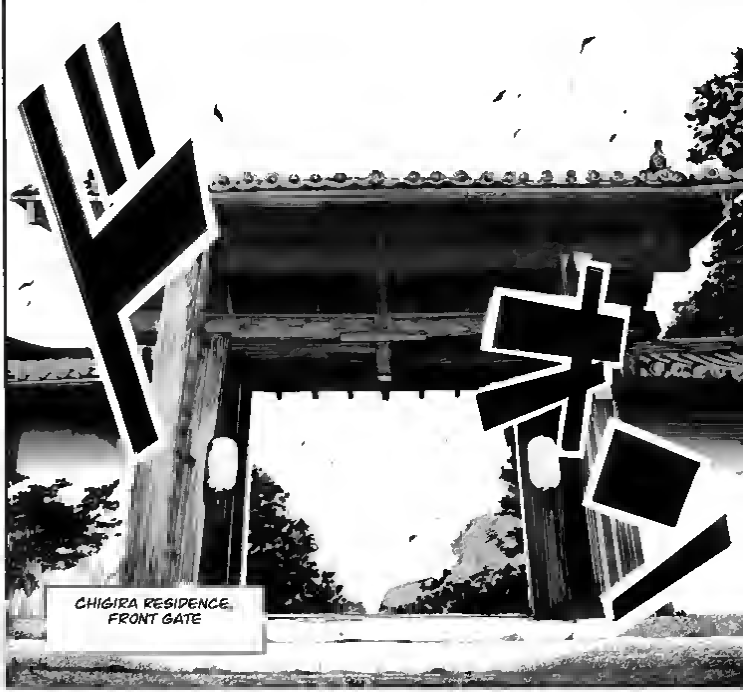
TN: HE'S HANDING OVER HIS BUSINESS CARD

UDOU STATION
UDOU WAS A CITY THAT FLOURISHED IN FISHERY AND WAS A POPULAR PLACE FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS FROM THE MID-EDO PERIOD TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SHOUWA PERIOD.
AFTER THE WAR, THEY SAY THE POPULATION DECREASED BY ABOUT TEN THOUSAND.
I GUESS I CAN'T EXPECT ANY CARS...

OH, A TRAVELER ARE YOU?
IT'S RARE FOR ANYONE TO COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS.
EXCUSE ME-
I'M LOOKING FOR DIRE-CTIONS...
NO, I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE...
ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE A RESEARCHER?
AROUND THIS AREA...
CHIGIRA'S RESIDENCE-
…!!
ナニヲ!!

ARE YOU... RELATED TO HIM SOMEHOW...?
?
YES... I'M A FRIEND OF HATSUMI-KUN...
...CHIGIRA'S HOUSE IS ABOUT 20 MINUTES AWAY FROM HERE ON FOOT
JUST WALK STRAIGHT DOWN THE ROAD.
GOT IT.
...
...DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HATSUMI-SAN...?
!
YES...
A WEEK AGO.. THERE WAS AN INCIDENT.
I SEE...

From what, exactly...?


CHIGIRA RESIDENCE
FRONT GATE

IT'S HERE...
I KNEW THEY WERE RICH...
BUT TO THIS EXTENT...

MEOW
SO IS SHE HATSUMI'S SISTER ?

UM..
IT'S OBVIOUS BUT SHE HASN'T NOTICED ME YET?
...YOU ARE?
CHIGIRA SECOND DAUGHTER
-NATSUMI-

AH, I'M SORRY. THE DOOR WAS OPEN, SO...
WHAT'S WRONG, HATSUMI-SAMA?
OH, WHO IS THIS?
SORRY FOR THE LATE INTRODUCTION. MY NAME IS HAJI.
I'M HATSUMI'S FRIEND THAT CONTACTED YOU THE OTHER DAY...
!!
YOU ARE BROTHER'S...!?
HA... HARUMI-SAMA! FUYUMI-SAMA!!
HE'S HERE!! HATSUMI-SAMA'S...

CHIGIRU THIRD DAUGHTER
-FUYUMI-
Fumie, don't make such a ruckus ...
WHEEL-CHAIR...?
IS SHE ALSO HATSUMI'S SISTER...?

You will worsen mother's condition.

.....
I... I'M SORRY, HARUMI-SAMA.
エラ・・・
Haji-san... right?
!!
Thank you .. for taking care of my idiotic brother all this time.
In his place,
I thank you for your kindness.

I... am the one in charge in this house.
My name is Chigira Harumi.
Please make yourself comfortable!
CHIGIRA ELDEST DAUGHTER -HARUMI-

THAT IS HOW I...

MET CHIGIRA HATSUMI'S THREE SISTERS.

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THESE ARE...
CHIGIRA... HATSUMI-KUN'S ASHES AND HIS POSSESSIONS
...
THE DIARY AND SELF-DEFENSE EQUIPMENT HE USED BEFORE HIS DEATH...
GRIP

BROTHER...!
..NO, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
BROTHER'S DEATH, I MEAN...
THE TRUTH IS STARTING TO SINK IN
BUT SEEING HIS REMAINS LIKE THIS,
WHEN I HEARD ABOUT IT ON THE PHONE, I DIDN'T REALLY THINK IT WAS TRUE...
HAJI-SAN... WAS IT?
I APOLOGIZE FOR SPEAKING LIKE THIS; IT IS BECAUSE I HAD A THROAT ILLNESS IN THE PAST.
BECO-MING LIKE THIS...
TO THINK THAT HE REALLY DIED...!

creak
creak
...BUT,
I HAVE COME TO A DECISION
WE SHALL HOLD HIS FUNERAL TOMORROW
HAJI-SAN, IF IT IS CONVENIENT FOR YOU, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND?
AH... YES, IF I MAY...

TN: SISTERS USUALLY DO NOT CALL EACH OTHER "SAN" AS IT MAKES THEM TOO DISTANT.

THIS WAY.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, AS THIS IS AN OLD HOUSE.
...THIS IS AMA-ZING.
IT'S FILLED WITH TREASURES
...NO, THE REALLY IMPORTANT THINGS ARE SHUT IN THE STOREHOUSE.
...THIS IS THE ROOM.
THERE IS ONE MORE ROOM IN THE BACK, SO FEEL FREE TO USE IT AS A BEDROOM.

...THERE'S NO NEED! THIS ROOM WILL BE ENOUGH
BUT HOW MANY ROOMS ARE THERE IN THIS HOUSE?
AROUND 20. IF THE DETACHED HOUSE IS INCLUDED.
DETACHED?
...YES. OUR MOTHER USES IT.
SHE IS MENTALLY ILL AND THERE TO RECUPERATE.
.....
...BY THE WAY. UM...
WHAT WAS BROTHER LIKE, OVER THERE...?

HE LEFT HOME TEN YEARS AGO...
AND SINCE HE NEVER CONTACTED US...I WAS WORRIED
...I SEE.
SO YOU OFFERED TO SHOW ME AROUND IN ORDER TO ASK ME THIS
AH...
...HE WAS A GOOD MAN.
HE WAS VERY KIND TO GIRLS AND HAD A STRONG SENSE OF JUSTICE.
EVEN THOUGH...
HE WAS PART OF A QUESTIONABLE MERCENARY GROUP, HE GOT ALONG WELL WITH EVERYONE.

...
I SEE.
...WELL, HE WAS A PRETTY VIRTUOUS GUY.

IF IT WERE ME, I WOULDN T EVEN THINK ABOUT LEAVING SUCH A MANSION.
HAHA...
!
NO, HATSUMI-KUN. WHY DID HE LEAVE THIS HOUSE?
BY THE WAY. THIS IS A RATHER AWKWARD QUESTION BUT, CHIGIRA...

...YES. SHE IS A PERSON WHO VALUES CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS.
WITH HARUMI-SAN?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, HE DID NOT AGREE WITH SISTER ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OUR HOME...

IN OUR FAMILY, IT IS A CUSTOM FOR THE YOUNGER SISTER OF THE ELDEST SON TO HELP WITH THE FAMILY BUSINESS.
BUT BROTHER, JUST LIKE FATHER, HATED FOLLOWING CUSTOMS... SO...
...SORRY, SEEMS LIKE I MADE YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING UNPLEASANT.
NO, IT'S ALRI—
Pat
!
DON'T LOSE HEART, NATSUMI SAN.
PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN HELP WITH.
!!!

P...PLEASE STOP IT...!
...!

WAS IT REGRETTABLE I WONDER.
THAT NIGHT, I THOUGHT ABOUT CHIGIRA ONCE AGAIN
AH...
E... EXCUSE ME...!!

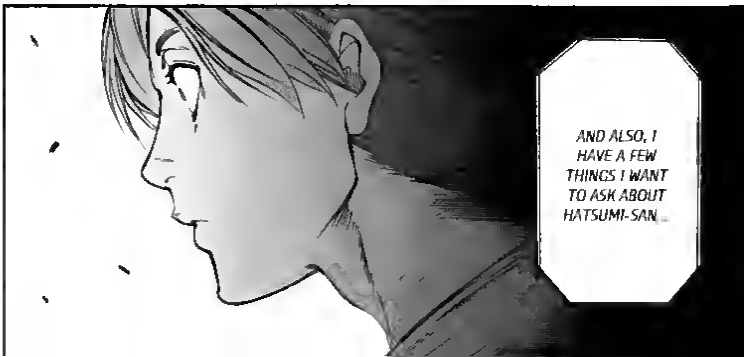
HUGE MANSION... LACK OF FREEDOM... NOT GETTING ALONG WELL WITH THE ELDEST DAUGHTER. I WONDER WHY HE WAS PLANNING ON COMING BACK HERE.

NEXT MORNING

OH? ARE YOU GOING OUT?
YES. I NEED TO DO A BIT OF SHOPPING IN TOWN

ARRANGE TO HAVE IT DELIVERED IN THE AFTERNOON
UNDERSTOOD

I SEE... THE FUNERAL IS IN THE EVENING. SO PLEASE COME BACK BY THEN
OKAY.


AND ALSO, I HAVE A FEW THINGS I WANT TO ASK ABOUT HATSUMI-SAN...

AS LONG AS I KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THEM...
...THEN, AFTER THE FUNERAL IS OVER, IF YOU HAVE TIME...
THERE WILL ONLY BE OUR FAMILY CUSTOMARY PRACTICE LEFT AFTER THAT
. THAT IS FINE.
...YES.
BUT IF YOU ARE FINE WITH IT...
IT WILL LAST UNTIL LATE AT NIGHT,
THEN PLEASE DO NOT FORGET.

TIE, GIFT FOR THE FUNERAL...
I DON'T HAVE A SUIT... BUT OH WELL
スーパー
KUWAHAR
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
Scratch
OK, DID I FORGET ANYTHING...
さとり

SURE THING
FIX ME UP A BIT. LIGHTLY WILL DO.

NEWS TRAVELS FAST IN THE BOONIES
YESTERDAY, A RESIDENT TOLD ME ABOUT IT.

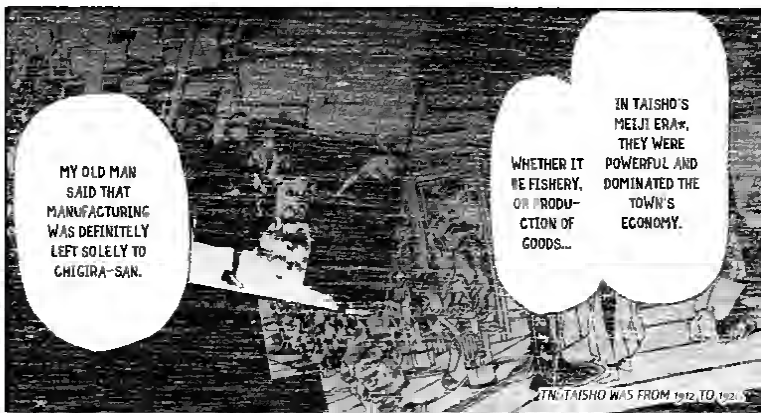
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOUR FACE BEFORE, SO ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE THE GUEST AT OHGIRA-SAN'S PLACE?
YEAH. HOW DID YOU KNOW?

YEAH, I'M A FRIEND OF HIS. I CAME TO DELIVER HIS REMAINS.
SO, ABOUT NATSUMI-SAN'S DEATH...

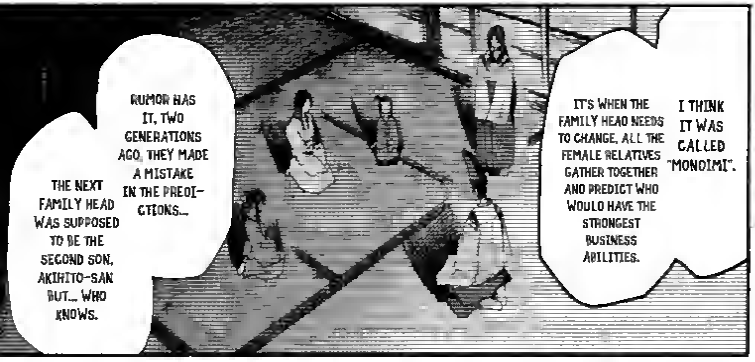
IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD?
Knock on wood
SIGH... SO IT'S REALLY TRUE.

AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS TOWN IS NOT DOING WELL.
WELL, YOU'RE THE CUSTOMER ...
I HEARD THAT WHEN MY OLD MAN WAS STILL ALIVE, THIS PLACE WAS PRETTY PROSPEROUS
THE PREVIOUS GENERATION— NO, HATSUMI-SAN IS DEAD NOW, SO TWO GENERATIONS AGO, OF THE CHIGIRA FAMILY HEAD...
BUT PLEASE DON'T TELL OTHER PEOPLE THAT I TOLD YOU ANYTHING.

IS THE CHIGIRA FAMILY REALLY THAT INFLUENTIAL?
BECAUSE OF THAT, THE TOWN IS LIKE THIS NOW.
APPARENTLY MADE A BLUNDER.


MY OLD MAN SAID THAT MANUFACTURING WAS DEFINITELY LEFT SOLELY TO CHIGIRA-SAN.
WHETHER IT BE FISHERY, OR PRODUCTION OF GOODS...
IN TAISHO'S MEIJI ERA*, THEY WERE POWERFUL AND DOMINATED THE TOWN'S ECONOMY.
*TN: TAISHO WAS FROM 1912 TO 192

...BUT.
PEOPLE SAY THE CHIGIRAS HAVE A STRANGE CUSTOM.
CUSTOM...?


I THINK IT WAS CALLED "MONDIMI".
IT'S WHEN THE FAMILY HEAD NEEDS TO CHANGE. ALL THE FEMALE RELATIVES GATHER TOGETHER AND PREDICT WHO WOULD HAVE THE STRONGEST BUSINESS ABILITIES.
RUMOR HAS IT, TWO GENERATIONS AGO, THEY MADE A MISTAKE IN THE PREDI-CTIONS...
THE NEXT FAMILY HEAD WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE SECOND SON, AKIHITO-SAN BUT... WHO KNOWS.

uwah!?
Snap
PREDI-CTIONS...?
HEY, I'M DONE. HOW IS IT?
.....

THANKS FOR THE INTERE-STING STORY.
BY THE WAY, ARE THERE ANY SIGHTSEEING SPOTS AROUND HERE?
I HAVE A BIT OF TIME ON MY HANDS.
うーん…
SIGHTS HUH... WE DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT..
...OH YEAH.

THERE IS A STONE USED TO ENSHRINE A GOD OVER AT THE MOUNTAIN SIDE.
IT'S CALLED "OTOBIKI STONE".
THEY SAY THAT WAY BACK, PEOPLE USED TO PLAY ANCIENT SHINTO MUSIC AND DANCE THERE IN ORDER TO INVITE THE GOD.

TN: OTOBIKI MEANS "MUSIC PLAYING"

TH... THIS IS CERTAI-NLY...
NOT MEANT FOR SIGHT-SEEING...
THE PATH IS PRETTY TWISTED TOO...

WOAH...
XX PREFECTURE CULTURAL HISTORICAL SITE - OTOBIKI STONE IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE THE TUMULUS PERIOD
IT WAS A STONE MADE TO WORSHIP THE GOD AND RITUALS WERE PERFORMED HERE.
SEEMS JUST LIKE A NORMAL STONE NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT
THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME "OTOBIKI" COMES FROM THE ANCIENT SHINTO MUSICAL CEREMONIES.
APPARENTLY IT USED TO BE CALLED "HOTOBIKI STONE" IN THE PAST.
!!

HAJI-SAN, WAS IT?
WHAT A COINCIDENCE.
Y... YOU ARE... KUDAN-SAN, FROM YESTERDAY?
I CAME HERE THIS MORNING.
YOU EVEN TRAVEL TO PLACES LIKE THIS TO COLLECT "STRANGE STORIES"?
YES.
LEGENDS AND FOLKLORES ARE TREASURE TROVES FOR SUCH STORIES.
FOR INSTANCE, THE ROCK THAT YOUR BACK IS FACING RIGHT NOW.
!!

ABOUT TEN YEARS AGO, A HUMAN SKELETON WAS DISCOVERED UNDER THE ROCK.
PEOPLE SAY THAT MAYBE THE NAME CAME FROM "HOTOBIKI" RATHER THAN "OTOBIKI".
HOTOBIKI ...
YOU SAY?
"HOTO" IS A WORD IN OLD JAPANESE... IT REFERS TO THE FEMALE SEXUAL ORGANS.
AND I BELIEVE "HIKI" HERE DOES NOT MEAN "TO PLAY", BUT RATHER, "TO SAW"
IN OTHER WORDS...
DURING THOSE CEREMONIES, WOMEN WERE CHOPPED UP AND OFFERED AS SACRIFICES...
THAT'S WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO THEM.
!!

BY THE WAY, HAJI-SAN. WHERE ARE YOU STAYING?
AH. AT THE HOUSE OF MY FRIEND THAT I MENTIONED BEFORE..
WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KUDAN-SAN.
DON'T SURPRISE ME LIKE THAT...
HEHEHE ...MY APOLOGIES.
I WAS JOKING.
U
.....
Eek!
LOOK. YOU CAN SEE IT FROM HERE. IT'S THAT MANSION.
I SEE... I WAS THINKING OF STAYING AT THE INN IN FRONT OF THE STATION.
BUT IT WAS OUT OF BUSINESS.
THAT IS UNFORTU-NATE...
WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW?
...IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP ME,
IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIA-TED.

WHICH REMINDS ME, ABOUT THE STORY I HEARD YESTERDAY. DID IT HAPPEN IN THIS AREA?
YES... IT KIND OF WENT LIKE THIS...
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, THERE WAS A VISITOR AT THE HOUSE OF A RUINED MERCHANT.

THE GUEST WAS VERY ATTRACTIVE, SO THE DAUGHTER OF THE HOUSE TOOK A LIKING TO HIM.
THAT NIGHT, THEY SHARED THE SAME BED.
"IT HURTS, IT HURTS!"
THE PARENTS WERE SECRETLY LISTENING TO THEIR DAUGHTER'S SCREAMS BUT...

THEY DISMISSED IT AS THEY THOUGH IT WAS PAIN FROM HER LOSS OF VIRGINITY.
HOWEVER, THE NEXT MORNING,
ONLY THE DAUGHTER'S HEAD AND ARM REMAINED THE REST HAD ALL BEEN EATEN

THE LAST PORTION OF THE TEXT WAS—
YES. AND THERE ARE EVEN MORE RUMORS FOR EVENTS AFTER THAT.
SO IT WAS AN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR DAUGHTER'S LIFE. HOW UNPLEASANT.
WHILE THE FAMILY MOURNED FOR THEIR LOSS...
SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS HAPPENED. SALES IMPROVED AND THE MERCHANT BECAME THE WEALTHIEST IN THE AREA.
THE FUNERAL WILL BEGIN IN ONE HOUR.
AH, HAJI-SAN. WELCOME BACK.
OH WE'RE HERE, KUDAN-SAN
!
I HAPPENED TO COME ACROSS HIM, AND SINCE HE HAS NOWHERE TO STAY, IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE...
HE'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE.
AND THAT PERSON IS...

"WAS THE INVI-TED GUEST
A GOD,
OR A DEMON ...?"

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Credits
Scanner: Claudia
Translator: cookie_on_fire
Proofreader: Med
Editor: Claudia
QC: Daisho

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13 club

by SHIHIRA Tatsuya

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Happy New Year

The Easy Going team wishing everyone Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2011

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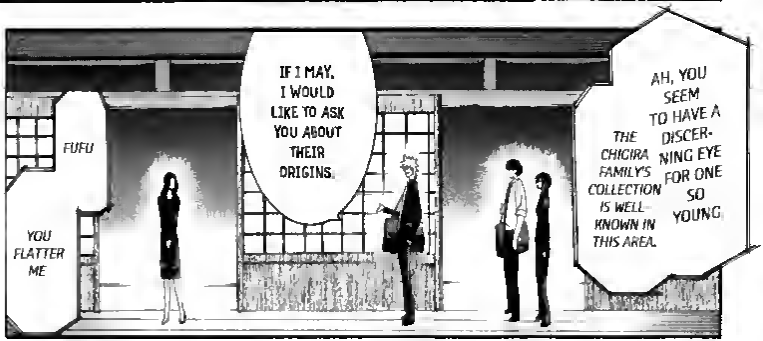
Yomoko

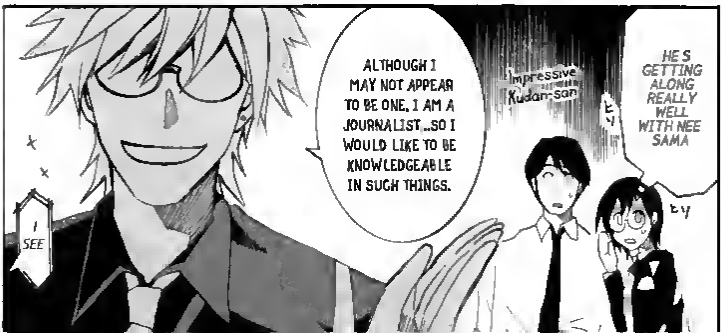
The Easy Going team

Story 5: Investigation
(Act 3)

Um...
MAYBE IT WAS OUT OF PLACE OF ME TO LET KUDAN-SAN STAY HERE...?
...MAYBE A BIT...
HARUMI NEE-SAN HATES IT WHEN THINGS HAPPEN WITHOUT HER DECISION...
UH...UM... NEE-SAMA, SINCE YOU WILL BE PREPARING FOR THE CEREMONY... I CAN SHOW THE GUESTS AROUND...
YOU SHOULO BE QUIET.

WOW! THESE ARE AMAZING!
ALL OF THE FURNITURE AND WORKS OF ART HERE ARE FIRST-RATE.
I CAN TELL THE OWNER HAS A GOOD TASTE JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM.
She's angry after all...


AH, YOU SEEM TO HAVE A DISCERNING EYE FOR ONE SO YOUNG.
THE CHIGIRA FAMILY'S COLLECTION IS WELL-KNOWN IN THIS AREA.
IF I MAY, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU ABOUT THEIR ORIGINS.
FUFU
YOU FLATTER ME


HE'S GETTING ALONG REALLY WELL WITH NEE SAMA
Impressive Kudan-san
ALTHOUGH I MAY NOT APPEAR TO BE ONE, I AM A JOURNALIST...SO I WOULD LIKE TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE IN SUCH THINGS.
I SEE

PLEASE USE THIS ROOM OVER HERE
HAJI-SAN IS ALSO STAYING HERE, BUT THERE IS ANOTHER ROOM FARTHER IN
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
...AND SORRY, CAN I ASK FOR SOME-THING?
I WOULD PLEASE LIKE TO USE INTERNET IF IT'S AVAILABLE.
...I M GLAD.
I FEEL UNCOMFORT-ABLE IF I AM UNABLE TO KEEP UP WITH MY WORK.
OF COURSE... I DO USE IT AS WELL.
, PLEASE ENJOY YOUR-SELVES.
ハヒ

OH...THERE IS EVEN A DETACHED HOUSE..
THIS KIND OF FINE MANSION IS RARE THESE DAYS.
HOWEVER, WITH A HOUSE LIKE THIS,
JUST EXACTLY HOW DO THEY MANAGE TO MAINTAIN IT?

BY THE WAY...
SINCE IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THEY'RE DOING ANY SORT OF BUSINESS.
WHO KNOWS... IT WAS PROBABLY AN INHERITANCE.

KUDAN-SAN DO YOU KNOW OF SOMETHING CALLED "MONOIMI"?
I JUST WANT YOU TO LEND ME A LITTLE BIT OF YOUR WISDOM...
EARLIER, YOU SAID YOU'LL THANK ME IF I FIND YOU A PLACE TO STAY

ACTUALLY... I HEARD THAT THE PRACTICE OF "MONOIMI" REMAINS FROM ANCIENT TIMES...
IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME RIGHT, IN THE PAST, ON MOONLESS NIGHTS, PEOPLE WOULD CONFINE THEMSELVES IN THEIR HOMES
Although I don't know much about it.

...YOU DIDN'T SEEM LIKE YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THIS SORT OF TALK
WHAT BROUGHT UP THIS PARTICULAR SUBJECT?

THAT WOULD BE MONOIMI FROM ONMYOU DOU
ORIGINALLY, MONOIMI WAS A FORM OF FORTUNE-TELLING, AND WENT ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE PERIOD OF THE FIRST WRITTEN JAPANESE LITERATURE.
IT'S ABOUT PREDICTING THE FUTURE BY LISTENING TO THE "VOICE OF GOD".
IT HELPED THE PERSONS WHO BECAME THE NEW RULER.

TN: Onmyoudou is a traditional Japanese esoteric cosmology, with Chinese influences

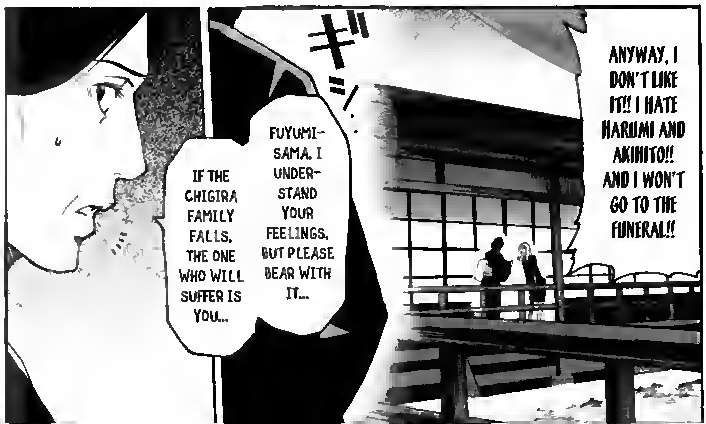
.. WHAT'S WRONG?
AH... WELL, IT'S JUST THAT MY FRIEND'S LAST WORDS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS YOUNGER SISTER...
ボーン
ボーン
Click
...INTE-RESTING
ボーン
ボーン
...OH.
SORRY, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE FUNERAL...
LET'S CONTINUE OUR TALK AFTER-WARDS

TIME TO CONFIRM SOME THING
ガラ、バタン

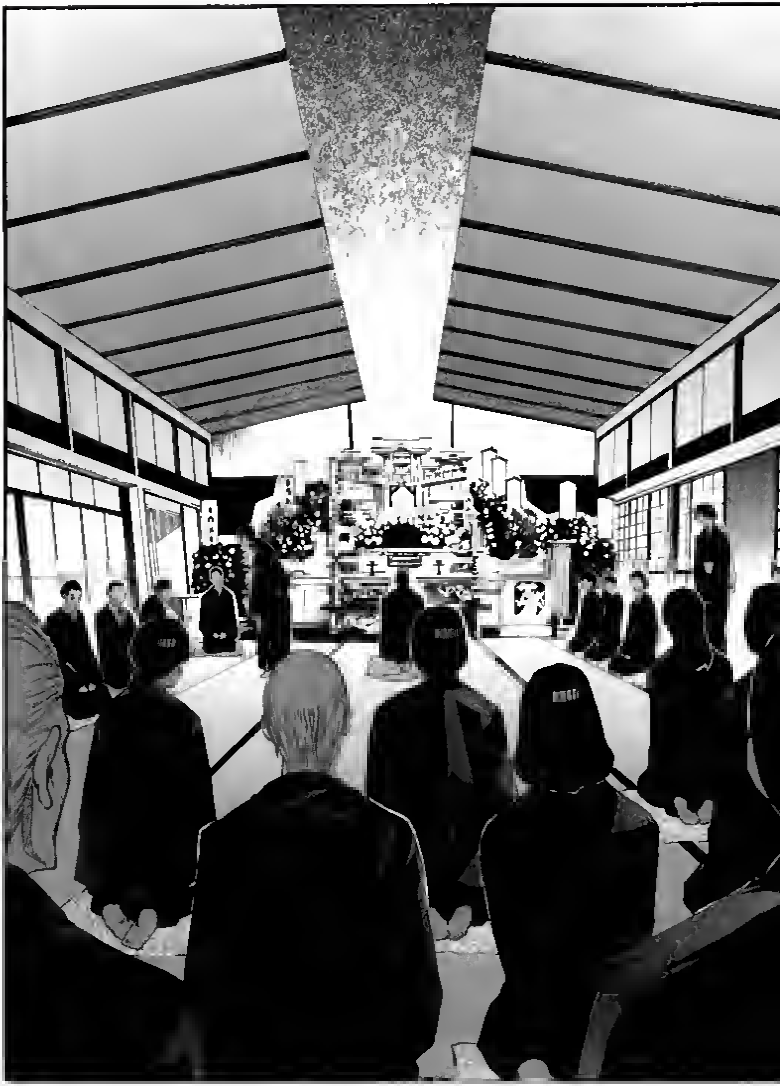
IT WOULD BE NICE IF THIS IS THE HOUSE IN QUESTION...

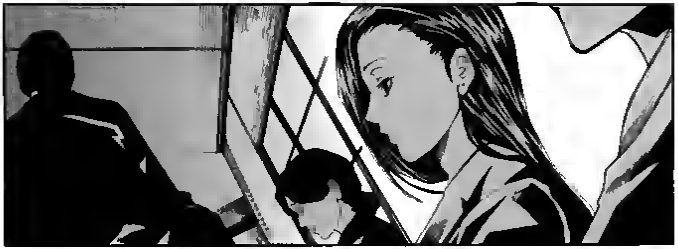
I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!!

I WON'T!!
I ONLY SAID "YES" BEFORE BECAUSE I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AND WAS TOLD THAT IT WAS FOR HATSUMI NII-SAN'S SAKE!!
IF AKIHITO BECOMES THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY, HE'LL START DOING "THAT" AGAIN!!
ND... HARUMI-SAMA WAS TAKING CARE OF HATSUMI-SAMA...

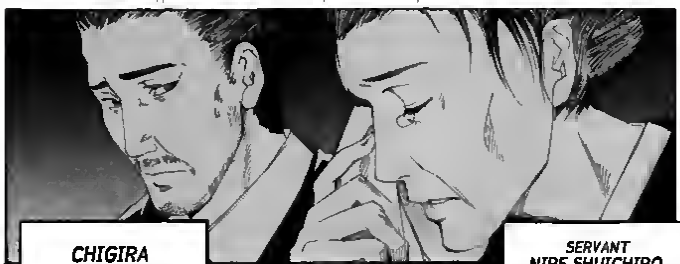

ANYWAY, I DON'T LIKE IT!! I HATE HARUMI AND AKIHITO!! AND I WON'T GO TO THE FUNERAL!!
FUYUMI-SAMA, I UNDER-STAND YOUR FEELINGS, BUT PLEASE BEAR WITH IT...
IF THE CHIGIRA FAMILY FALLS, THE ONE WHO WILL SUFFER IS YOU...

...UM, IT'S FUYUMI-SAN RIGHT?
YOUR BROTHER'S CEREMONY IS STARTING.
AH...
キッ
WHY ARE YOU EAVES-DROPPING?!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!!
NOTHING I CAN DO
ひょっ、ひょっと
FUYUMI -SAMA ...!





TN: Aki means autumn, so it appears that other than Hatsumi (hatsu means first), the other children are all named after seasons

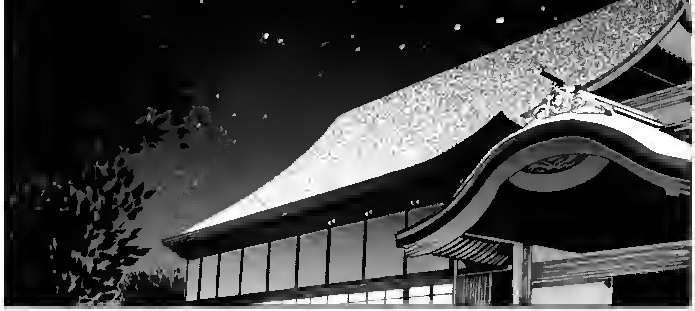


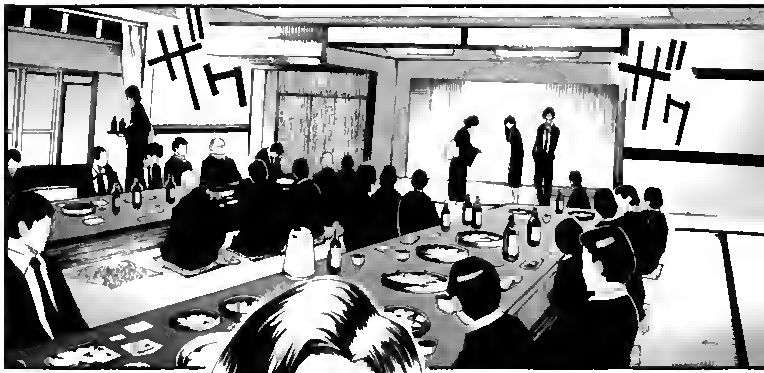
EVEN YOU ARE DEAD...
IN... IN THAT CASE...
MA AM... PLEASE CALM DOWN...
HATSU-MI..
HATSUMI...!
ポロ ポロ

MOTHER...
す。

OOOH... NATSU-MI...
EXCUSE ME..
I THINK I WILL LET HER REST IN THE ROOM OVER THERE...
IT'S ALRIGHT.. I'M STILL HERE

I SEE... SHE IS HATSUMI'S MOTHER...
HATSUMI
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU WANT ME TO DO ?

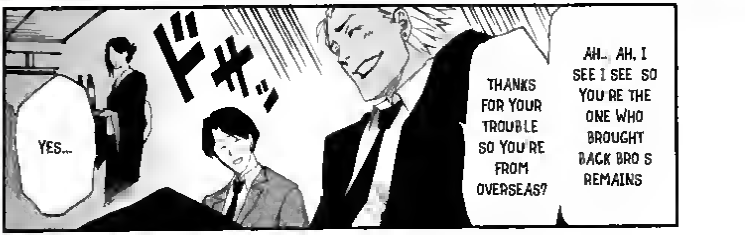




THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHEDULES TO GATHER HERE TODAY
DINNER WILL BE SERVED AFTER THIS SO PLEASE RELAX AND ENJOY YOURSELVES
I SHALL BE ABSENT FOR A LITTLE WHILE TO PERFORM A CHIGIRA FAMILY TRADITION
.....

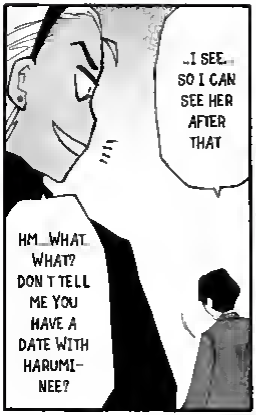
THE NEW FAMILY HEAD, AKIHITO, WILL BE SAYING A FEW WORDS...
NOW IF YOU PLEASE...
UM... WELL, LET'S GET ALONG.
UH... YO, EVERY-ONE.
I'M AKIHITO, THE NEW HEAD.
SO THAT'S AKIHITO..
..HE GIVES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT IMPRESSION COMPARED WITH HATSUMI..
In many ways
Ok! Drink up!
Gahahaha!

YO, WHO'RE YOU? NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE.
AH... I'M NATSUMI-KUN'S FRIEND, NAJE...

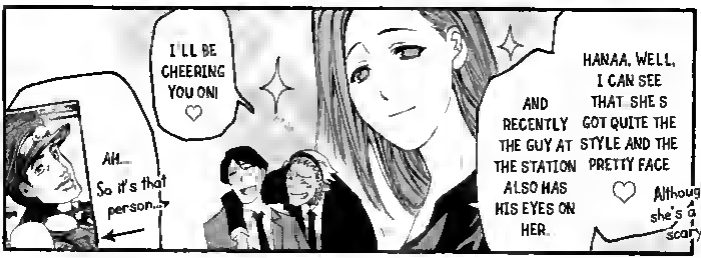

YES...
THANKS FOR YOUR TROUBLE SO YOU'RE FROM OVERSEAS?
AH... AH, I SEE I SEE SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROUGHT BACK BRO'S REMAINS

HMM? BRO NEVER TOLD YOU ANYTHING ABOUT HIS FAMILY?
WELL, THOUGH I DO UNDERSTAND HOW HE'D HATE HAVING HARUMI-NEE HOVERING OVER HIM ALL THE TIME.
HUH?
GEEZ, HE SHOULD'VE STOPPED BEING SO STUBBORN AND JUST CAME BACK QUICKLY

TO BE HONEST, THIS HOUSE IS LOOKED AFTER BY HARUMI-NEE.
SHE UPHOLDS ALL THE SHITTY TRADITIONS TO MAKE THIS PLACE PROSPER.
THE REST OF US LIVE WITH FREEDOM IN THIS COUNTRYSIDE.
HERE, I CAN GET ALL THE CARS AND CLOTHES I WANT.
I DUNNO WHY ANYONE WOULD WANNA LEAVE BY CHOICE.
...IT CERTAINLY MAKES ME ENVIOUS.
BESIDES THAT, HARUMI-SAN... SAID SOMETHING ABOUT "TRADITION", BUT WHERE IS SHE GOING AT THIS HOUR?


...I SEE... SO I CAN SEE HER AFTER THAT
HM...WHAT WHAT? DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVE A DATE WITH HARUMI-NEE?

OH ..SHE'S GOING TO THE SHRINE OF OTOBIKI STONE TO ANNOUNCE THE CHANGE IN FAMILY HEADS.
SHOULD BE BACK IN AN HOUR AND A HALF OR SO


I'LL BE CHEERING YOU ON!
AH... So it's that person...
HANAA. WELL, I CAN SEE THAT SHE'S GOT QUITE THE STYLE AND THE PRETTY FACE
AND RECENTLY THE GUY AT THE STATION ALSO HAS HIS EYES ON HER.
Although she's a bit scary.

Yo! New head!!
Oh--sorry for the wait

Oh
LET'S DRINK TOGE-THER!
AKIHITO-SAN COME OVER HERE!

SURE.
I'LL SEE YA LATER, HAJI-SAN.
ALRIGH THEN.

WILL THE FAMILY BE ALRIGHT IF HE TAKES THE LEAD?
I THINK THE CHIGIRA FAMILY'S ERA WILL NO DOUBT END IN THE FUTURE

KUDAN-SAN...
WHERE ARE YOU HEADING TO?
WHAT AN OUTFIT...
...IT MUST SEEM FUNNY TO YOU, HOW WE KEEP SUCH AN OLD TRADITION IN THIS REMOTE PLACE...
WE HAVE A NEW FAMILY HEAD NOW...
SO I HAVE TO GO INFORM OUR GOD...

OFFERINGS TO THE GOD... HOLDING EVENTS AND FESTIVALS... PERFORMING PURIFICATIONS AND EXORCISMS... THEY ARE ALL SUCH STUPID CUSTOMS
BUT I HAVE GIVEN UP EVERYTHING TO THIS FAMILY SINCE I WAS A TEENAGER... AND EVEN NOW, THAT WILL NOT CHANGE.
THAT IS QUITE APPLAUD-ABLE.
!
I WILL NOT ASK HOW YOU DO IT, BUT YOU ARE HOLDING TOGETHER THE HOME ALL BY YOURSELF.
IT MUST ONLY BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE YOU HAVE CONVICTION, IS IT NOT?
THANK YOU
YOU ARE SO KIND, KUDAN-SAN
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT THERE IS A STOREHOUSE... WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR ME TO TAKE A LOOK?
THAT IS FINE. THE SERVENT NAMED AYAE HAS THE KEY TO IT

I SEE.
WELL THEN.
THE MOUNTAIN PATH AT NIGHT IS DANGEROUS... PLEASE BE CAREFUL!

AH. HAJI-SAN. SO YOU WERE HERE
YES. I WAS LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO HAVE A SMOKE...
TRADITIONS... I SEE...

BUT NOW SHE NO LONGER HAS TO
YES. SHE HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT BROTHER EVER SINCE HE LEFT HOME...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TOUGH.. WITH THE WAY YOUR MOTHER WAS.

IN THE MIDDLE EAST...?
YES MOTHER SEEMS TO WANT TO KNOW HOW HE FARED OVER THERE AS WELL...
Oh yeah!
Tomorrow would be fine, but will you tell me stories about brother?

UNLIKE ME, HE WAS A SERIOUS GUY, AND YOU NEAR ABSOLUTELY NO RUMORS ABOUT HIM...
ONCE DURING A PATROL, NE SAVED A BEAUTY WNO WAS BEING ATTACKED BY THUGS, AND SNE THANKED NIM PROFUSELY...
WELL... YOU CAN PROBABLY TELL BY THE WAY I LOOK, BUT DRINKING, SMOKING, GAMBLING, I DID THEM ALL.
MIDDLE EAST IS AN ABSTINENCE SOCIETY, SO I WAS WONDERING IF NATSUMI WAS REALLY JAPANESE.

I SEE...
Please don't mention that in front of mother...
はっは
BUT IF IT WERE ME, I'D DEFINITELY NAVE MADE A PASS AT HER

IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, I CAN SNOW YOU AROUND.
...HUH?

NANA... YOU'LL NAVE PLENTY OF CNANCES IN THE FUTURE.
...BUT I NAVE NEVER LEFT THIS HOME. SO I ENVY THOSE WNO WORK ABROAD.

...REALLY?
SURE.
IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT.

AT THAT TIME.
I STILL DIDN'T KNOW...

...That the curtain of tragedy
has been lifted.

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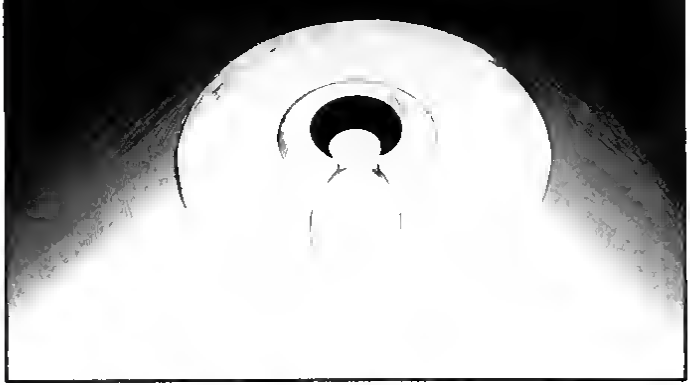
Investigation (Act 4)



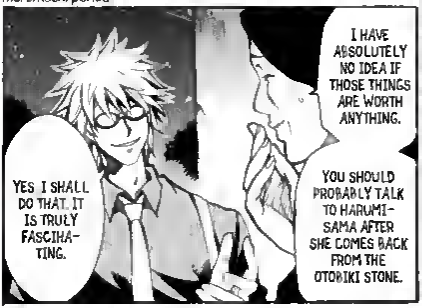
... OHOHO.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ALL ANTIQUES. BUT I SEE ITEMS EXHIBITED IN RECENT AUCTIONS HERE AND THERE...
IF SHE IS THE BIDDER, THEN AS I THOUGHT... THE FAMILY ASSET IS...

目、五
耳、二
鳥

ニヤ…

TN: Sesshu Toyo was the most prominent Japanese painter in the Muromachi period

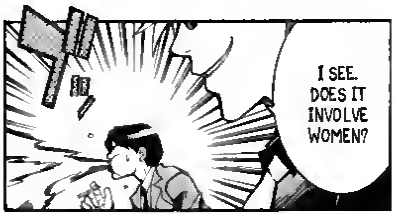

I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA IF THOSE THINGS ARE WORTH ANYTHING.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY TALK TO HARUMI-SAMA AFTER SHE COMES BACK FROM THE OTORIKI STONE.
YES I SHALL DO THAT. IT IS TRULY FASCIHA-TING.

KUDAN-SAN.
ARE YOU ON A SMOKE BREAK?
WELL, I'M JUST AN OUTSIDER, AND TALKING TO THE LOCALS HERE IS A PAIN.
SO I JUST EXCUSED MYSELF EARLY.
I GREW UP IN TOKYO YOU SEE.
.....

THERE IS NO WAY TO SEE SUCH PRETTY NIGHT SKY OVER THERE...
...YOU ARE WORKING FOR A NEWS AGENCY OVERSEAS NOW, CORRECT?

YES, WELL... I USED TO BE A REPORTER IN TOKYO, BUT THEN I MADE A SLIGHT BLUNDER.
I COULDN'T STAY IN THAT AGENCY... SO I WAS RECRUITED BY MY CURRENT ONE.

THERE ARE REMAINS OF SOMETHING LIKE LIP BALM ON YOUR LIPS.
WAS IT NATSUMI-SAN?
!!


I SEE. DOES IT INVOLVE WOMEN?

...DID I HIT THE BULLS-EYE?
YE... WELL... BUT... HOW DID YOU...

...KUKUKU YOU ONLY JUST MET HER, AND YET SO MUCH PROGRESS...
IT MUST BE FROM BEFORE ..!!

I HAVE NO INTEN-TION OF CRITICIZING YOU.
AFTER ALL, PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT INTERESTS.

YE... NO... UM...
IT SEEMS THAT YOU ARE FOND OF ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO BUT WOMEN IS NUMBER ONE I TAKE IT?

...GEEZ.
KUDAN-SAN, YOU SAW THROUGH ME COMPLETELY.

WHILE WORKING ON A CERTAIN CASE, I BECAME INTIMATE WITH THE WIFE OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDER.
BACK IN THE DAYS OF THE OLD NEWS AGENCY, I WAS INVOLVED WITH THE POLICE
..WELL, IT'S JUST AS YOU GUESSED.
FOR ME, WOMEN IS A NECESSARY INDULGENCE, I START TO LAY MY HANDS ON THEM WITHOUT THINKING
JUST LIKE WITH THIS CIGARETTE RIGHT HERE.
EVEN WHEN I KNOW BETTER, I CAN'T STOP MYSELF..
BUT THAT ASIDE, YOU ALSO HAVE A STRANGE HOBBY, COLLECTING THOSE STORIES OF YOURS.
..YOU SEE... I LIKE HUMANS

THOSE KINDS OF THEMES ARE OFTEN CONSIDERED TO BE FOUND IN "UNBELIEVABLE TALES", BUT I THINK THEY ARE MERELY URBAN LEGENDS AND CURIOUS STORIES.
THAT'S WHY I LOVE THOSE STORIES AND COLLECT THEM.
NO, IT'S MORE CORRECT TO SAY THE DESIRE OF HUMANS
THE DESIRE TO LIVE,
THE DESIRE FOR FAME,
THE DESIRE FOR RICHES, THE DESIRE TO BE SUPERIOR TO OTHERS.
AND, THE DESIRE FOR SEX.

AH. HAJI-SAN. SO THIS IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN.
!

HEY. I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
AH...AKIHITO-KUN?! AND THE RESIDENT POLICE OFFICER.

ACTUALLY, I NEED A BIT OF HELP FROM YOU
I DON'T WANT TO LET THE PUBLIC KNOW OF IT...

.....
HE IS KUDAN-SAN... AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE.
AH, PLEASE DON'T WORRY
FROM NATSUMI-SAN?
ACTUALLY, NATSUMI-NEE CALLED ME JUST NOW ON MY CELLPHONE.
!
..FINE, SINCE WE NEED MORE PEOPLE ANYWAY...

YEAH... SHE WAS ASKING ME FOR A FAVOR.
TO GO GET HARUMI-NEE BECAUSE SHE'S LATE.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, IT'S ALREADY 9...

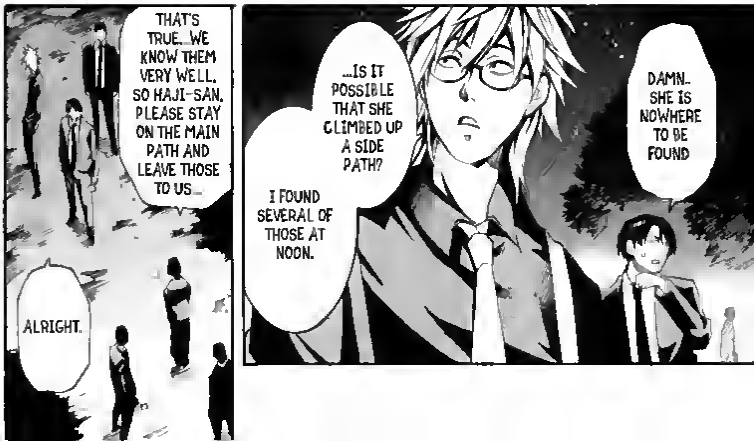
STILL, SHE SAID THAT SHE CAN'T FIND HER ANYWHERE...
.....

SO, THINKING THAT HARUMI-NEE CAME BACK ALREADY SHE CALLED ME, BUT...

IT TAKES ABOUT 30 MINUTES TO GET TO OTOBIKI STONE, SO SINCE HARUMI-NEE LEFT AT AROUND 7, SHE SHOULD'VE BEEN BACK AT AROUND 8:30...
AND AROUND 30 MINUTES AGO, NATSUMI-NEE...

...PERHAPS SOMETHING MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED SINCE SHE WAS WALKING ON A MOUNTAIN PATH AT NIGHT
COULD I ASK A LITTLE HELP FROM HER SERVANTS SO THAT WE CAN SPLIT UP AND LOOK FOR HER?
IT'S TIME FOR THE GUESTS TO LEAVE, SO I HAVE TO STAY HERE TO SEND THEM OFF...
SO PLEASE HELP, HAJI-SAN
...I UNDER-STAND. IT'S FINE WITH YOU TOO, KUDAN-SAN?

HEEE EY!!
HARU MI-SAAN!!


DAMN.. SHE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND
...IS IT POSSIBLE THAT SHE CLIMBED UP A SIDE PATH?
I FOUND SEVERAL OF THOSE AT NOON.
THAT'S TRUE...WE KNOW THEM VERY WELL. SO HAJI-SAN, PLEASE STAY ON THE MAIN PATH AND LEAVE THOSE TO US...
ALRIGHT.

!!
...HARUMI-SAN?!
ゴゥ..
NATSUMI-SAN?!
OFFICER?!
WHAT ABOUT HARUMI-SAN?
IT'S NO GOOD. I WALKED AROUND OTOBIKI STONE BUT COULDN T FIND HER ANYWHERE...

NOW IS THE TIME TO SPLIT UP...YOU NEED TO CALM DOWN.
HEEEY, SHE'S HERE! I FOUND HER!!

HARUMI-SAN...
Nee-
Sun
...SHE'S DEAD.
ざわっ…
HARUMI-SAMA...

OH NO...!!

...BY THE WAY, HAJI-SAN...WHY DID YOU SAY 'OH NO ...?
.....
HUH ...?
WHEN WE FOUND HARUMI-SAN'S BODY, YOU LET OUT AN "OH NO"!
AH.. IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE LAST WORDS OF MY FRIEND ..THE PREVIOUS HEAD OF THE FAMILY, CHIGIRA HATSUMI.
LAST WORDS...?

妹を…守ってくれ…
HE SAID THIS RIGHT BEFORE HE DIED .. "PLEASE PROTECT MY SISTER".
SISTER .. I SEE.

YES, I CAME HERE TO DELIVER HIS TESTAMENT AS A FRIEND,
BUT ALSO BECAUSE I COULDN T GET THOSE WORDS OUT OF MY MIND
.....

PROTECT HER FROM WHAT? WHAT WAS IT THAT HATSUMI FEARED?
I HAD ABSOLU-TELY NO IDEA.

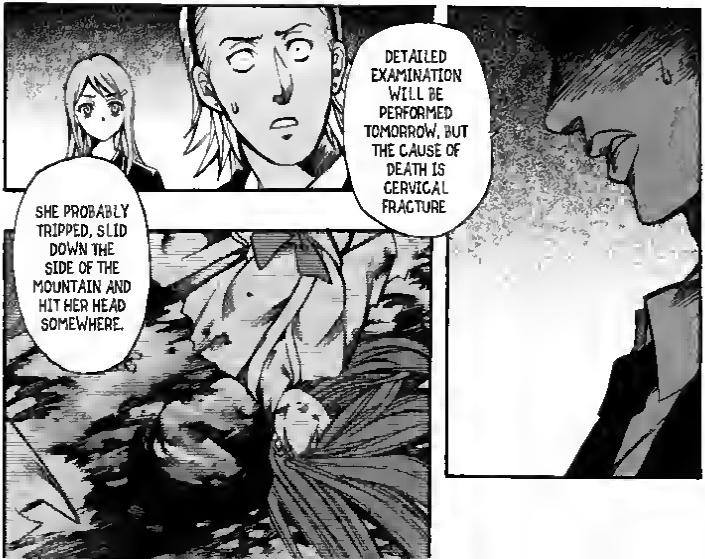
BEFORE I COME HERE, I ALREADY KNEW THAT THE CHIGIRA FAMILY IS VERY WEALTHY.
WHEN I HEARD THAT IT WAS THE ELDEST SON WHO DIED, I THOUGHT THERE MAY BE PEOPLE WHO WILL PREY ON THE FAMILY.
IN ADDITION, THE SECOND SON IS THAT TYPE OF PERSON...
AND THE THREE SISTERS ARE ALL SINGLE... SO IT'S NOT STRANGE FOR THE ELDEST SON TO WORRY ABOUT THEM... BUT...

I DIDN'T THINK THINGS WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS...

...OFFICER.

SO YOU ARE SAYING THAT HATSUMI-SAN FORESAW THAT HIS DEATH WOULD TRIGGER SOMETHING...?
ドドドド
...I THINK SO.

...I SEE.
ゴゴゴ


DETAILED EXAMINATION WILL BE PERFORMED TOMORROW, BUT THE CAUSE OF DEATH IS CERVICAL FRACTURE
SHE PROBABLY TRIPPED, SLID DOWN THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN AND HIT HER HEAD SOMEWHERE.

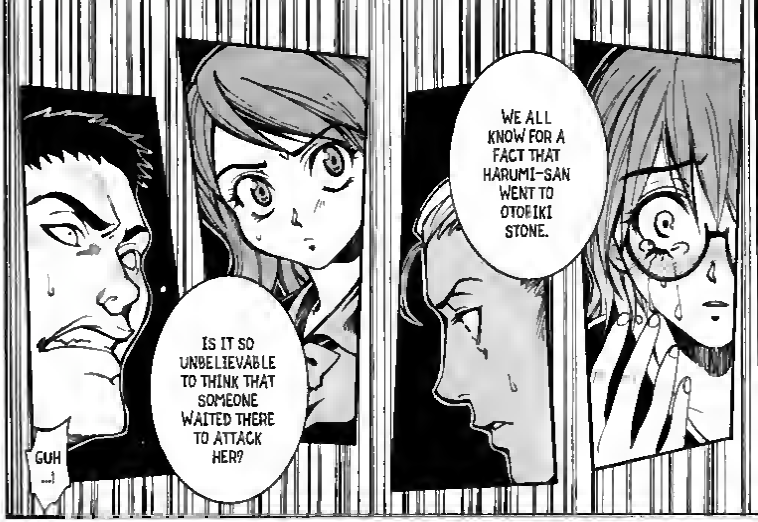
UWA AAA AH!!
U...
FOR THIS UNFOR- TUNATE ACCIDENT --
I THINK IT'S BEST TO NOT CONCLUDE THAT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT.
MY CONDO- LENCES ...
KUDAN- SAN...?
IT'S TRUE THAT SHE COULD HAVE SLIPPED IN THE DARK MOUNTAIN PATH
BUT WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER IF YOU DRAW UP A CONCLUSION AFTER MORE INVESTI- GATION?
YOU... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?!

I'M SAYING THAT IT COULD BE AN "INCIDENT"... AND NOT AN "ACCIDENT".

...RIDICULOUS. SAYING THAT IT'S AN "INCIDENT" AMONG OTHER THINGS..
AN "INCIDENT" IS WHEN A PERSON CAUSES SOMETHING TO HAPPEN WITH SOME KIND OF INTENTION IN MIND. NO?

THAT'S WHY IT WOULD BE BEST TO PRESERVE THE SCENE AND NOT LET ANYONE INTO THE MOUNTAINS TONIGHT.
WHA...

I HAVE TAKEN PHOTOGRAPHS OF OTOBIKI STONE S SURROUNDINGS AT NOON TODAY.
SO IF ANYONE WAS THERE, THEN WE COULD PROBABLY TELL OF ANY DIFFERENCE BY COMPARING WITH THE PHOTOS
IT'S NOT A TOURIST ATTRACTION, AND PEOPLE PROBABLY WOULDN'T GO THERE AT NIGHT.
AND... WE CAN CHECK FOR FOOTPRINTS TOMORROW MORNING
THERE SHOULD BE MANY CIGARETTE BUTTS DROPPED BY HAJI-SAN.
IF WE CAN FIND ANY SHOE PRINTS ON THEM, IT WOULD BE PROOF THAT SOMEONE WAS AT OTOBIKI STONE DURING THE EVENING.


WE ALL KNOW FOR A FACT THAT HARUMI-SAN WENT TO OTOBIKI STONE.
IS IT SO UNBELIEVABLE TO THINK THAT SOMEONE WAITED THERE TO ATTACK HER?
GUH ...!

..HAJI-SAN.
I WILL REPAY YOU FOR THE FAVOR OF LETTING ME STAY ONE NIGHT.

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「都市伝説」や「恐怖譚」、「不思議な事件」を扱う
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"奇譚"を求めて、闇の中から姿を現す。
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そして伝奇ミステリー色あふれる中編「伽耶」を収録!

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